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BIRD-NOTES

THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY

59.82:06(42)

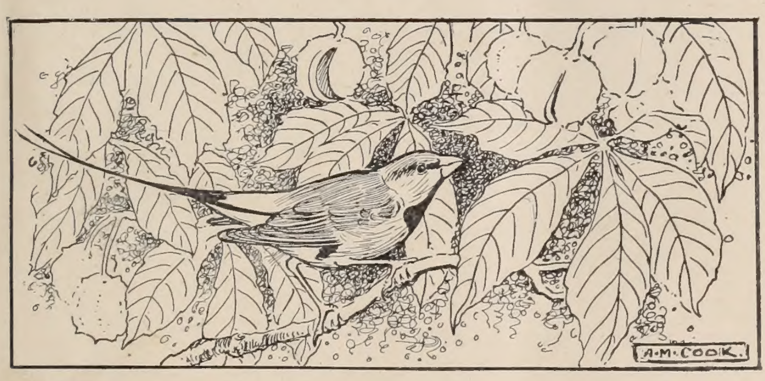
VOLUME I.—SERIES III.

> *"By mutual confidence and mutual aid,*
> *Great deeds are done and great discoveries made."*

EDITED BY

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

AUTHOR OF "AVIARIES AND AVIARY LIFE" ETC.



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Secretary's Report.

With this issue another volume of Bird Notes is complete. When compared with those which have preceded it, I think the members will agree with me, that such comparison is very favourable. To our Honorary Officers and principallv the Editor Mr. Page, belongs the credit. With the strenuous times through which we have passed during the year, it has not been a pathway of roses for any of the club officials.

Although at present we have not raised the annual subscription, being very loth to do so, I think it well to remind members that, owing to the large increase in the cost of production, their 10s. does not cover expenses. It is therefore up to the members who can afford it to contribute to the Illustration Fund.

Like other similar societies many of our members, who were keen and generous supporters of the Club, have given their lives for King and Country, and we need many others to take their places.

1919, we all hope, is to see peace signed and at an early date. This means many will be returning to civilian life and their old hobby.

If we all do what lies in our power I shall not have to again, I trust, send out a similar reminder circular to that which I have been obliged to send lately.

Wake up F.B.C. members and let us pull through.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS.

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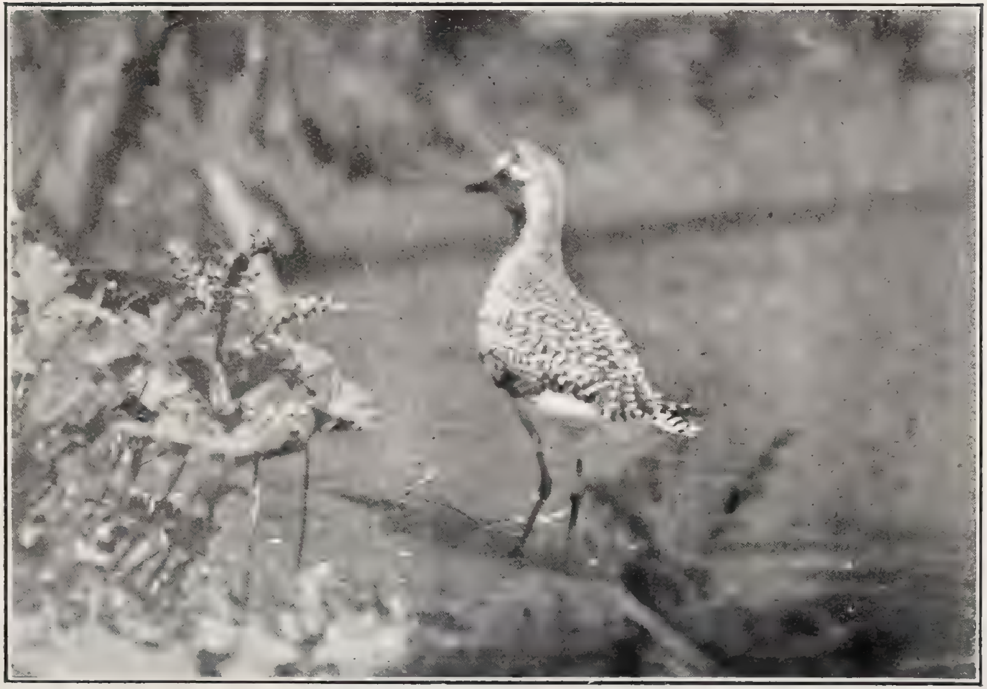

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Grey Plover.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Grey Plover, *(Squatarola Helvetica)*,

By W. Shore Baily.

This handsome shore bird occasionally finds its way into our members' aviaries, and where these are large and roomy and there is not too much cover, they are quite a desirable bird, as they are easy to cater for, and are of course quite hardy. My first introduction to them was many years ago, when I was residing in the Isle of Man. At that time I was an enthusiastic collector of our shore birds and water fowl, not, I am sorry to say, for avicultural reasons, but for the far less interesting purpose of a museum collection. It was one fine May morning that I found myself before sunrise on Languess point, armed with a breach loader and a pair of field-glasses. The sun rises early in the middle of May and to see it rise from a point, some four miles from one's home, means turning out of bed at a time when many people in our larger cities would be just about turning in, but to a sportsman or collector this is a small matter, and usually the delightfully bracing morning air, and the undisturbed view obtained of the numerous flocks of sea-fowl, shore birds, etc., all busy at their breakfasts, quite recompenses one for the effort. On the morning in question I had passed numerous flocks of Black-headed Gulls, Ringed Plovers and Dunlins, but had met with nothing of especial interest, when my attention was called to a low, plaintive whistle coming from far out to sea. The call was quite new to me, although I had an extensive acquaintance with the notes of many of our shore birds, and could bring most of them within reach of the gun by whistling. This call, coming as it did from far out to sea, and from the midst of a slight sea haze, sounded very plaintive, and when the birds at last came into sight, and settled on an outlying rock, I lost no time in bringing my field glasses to bear upon them. I thought at first that they must be Golden Plover in breeding plumage, but after a while I was able to get closer to them, although never within anything like gunshot, and I then made them out to be a pair of Grey Plover in full breeding plumage; and very handsome they looked too in the morning sun. These birds are said to be numerous on the East Coast but this is certainly not the case on the West side. I have never seen more than five at any time, and that but seldom. In the autumn of the same year I obtained two young ones out of a flock of four. They very closely resemble young Golden Plover, but they are easily identified, as they have a small hind toe, which the others have not. The Golden Plover is seldom seen on our shores, except in large flocks. The Grey Plover is one of the few birds that is found at times in practically every country in the world. I have shot them on the Pacific Coast, when I only met with them in small family parties or in pairs. Ridgway claims them as a different species, but I was never able to note any difference in the specimens I shot, and if they have any distinguishing feature, it must be a very small one. American Ornithologists are very fond of multiplying species, I think quite unnecessarily so.

Until the last few years nothing was known of the breeding habits of this species, but now some of their nesting haunts are known, and a very interesting account of the finding of nests on the tundras of the Petchora River is given by Mr. Henry Seebohm. He says, " Nest, practically none; a hollow, round
" and deep, with a few broken slender twigs and reindeer
" moss. Eggs four in number and double-spotted. Inter-
" mediate in colour between those of the Lapwing and Golden
" Plover and subject to variation, some being much browner
" and others more olive, none quite as olive as typical Lap-
" wings' eggs, or as buff as those of the Golden Plover, but
" the blotching is in every respect the same. The underlying
" spots are equally indistinct, the surface spots are generally
" large, especially at the larger end but occasionally very
" small and scattered, and sometimes taking the form of thin
" streaks. The female generally comes first to the nest, after
" having been driven off it, but she comes less conspicuously
" than the male, generally making her appearance at a con-

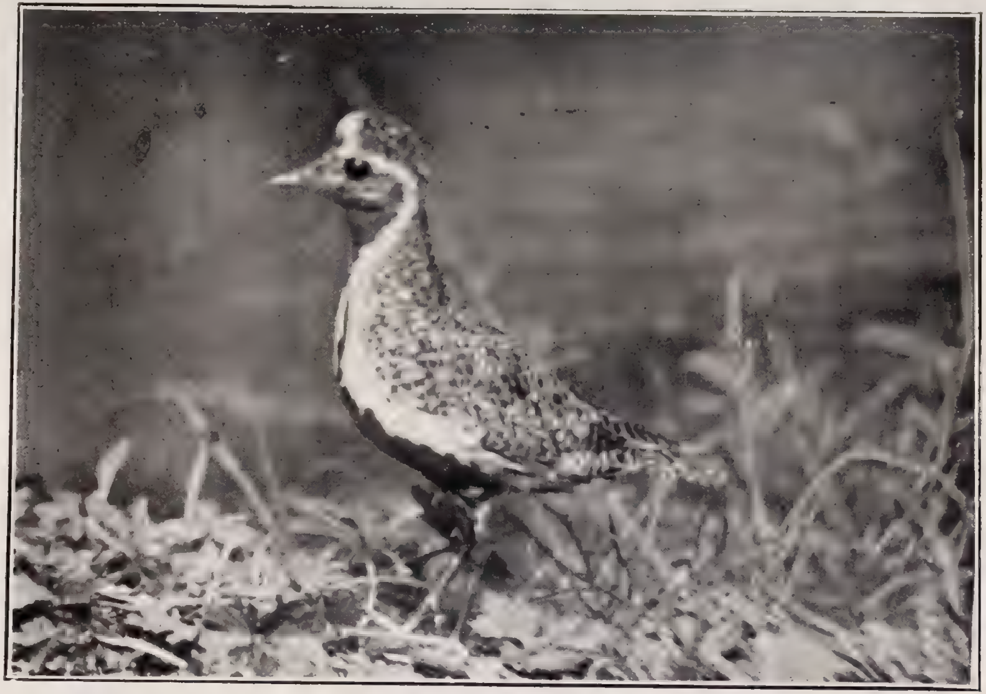

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Golden Plover.

" siderable distance, on some ridge of mossy land. When " she has looked round, she runs quickly to the next ridge, " and looks round again, generally calling to the male with " a single note. The male seldom replies, but when he does " so, it is with a double note. When the female has stopped " and looked round many times, then the male thinks it worth " while to move, but more often than not he joins the female " by flying up to her. The female very seldom takes wing. " She is very cautious, and if she is not satisfied that all is " safe, she will pass and repass her nest several times before " she finally settles upon it. She rarely remains upon one " post of observation long, but the male often remains for ten " minutes or more upon one tussock of a ridge watching the " movements of the female."

I am afraid that there is not much chance of these birds nesting in confinement, but the experiment is quite worth trying.

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Grass Parrakeets in Captivity.

By the Marquis of Tavistock.

The lovely little birds popularly known as Grass Parrakeets, are all, according to the latest Australian writers, doomed to early extinction. The destruction of their natural food supply, imported cats, stoats and foxes, and the colonization of areas least subject to severe drought, have all played their part, and of the seven known species, Bourke's, Blue-winged, Elegant, Rock, Yellow-bellied, Splendid, and Turquoisine, the two last, which were the most beautiful, have apparentlv already joined the Dodo and the Great Auk.

I have kept at different times four kinds, with varying success. They have much to recommend them besides their rarity: their gentle, twittering cries could not offend the most sensitive ear; they are all exceedingly beautiful. They do little or no damage to growing shrubs, and they are not spiteful with weaker birds. Some, though not all, agree well enough with their own kind, for a few pairs to breed together in harmony. But they are not the easiest of birds to manage, though the difficulty of keeping them is not such as need deter any true lover of Parrakeets. They are not so hardy as the typical broad-tails, and will only stand bad weather when fully adult and in perfect plumage. They are extremely sensitive to septic fever infection, even the most thorough disinfection and scrupulous cleanliness may fail to provide a perfect safeguard. They have also a perfect mania, especially when newly-fledged, for committing suicide by dashing themselves against glass or wire-netting, and will even succeed in bringing off this fatal exploit within the narrow limits of a three foot square cage. Lastly, as is common with Australian Parrakeets, the fertility of the cocks is readily impaired by lack of flying exercise and sunshine.

It probably fell to my lot to own the very last living Turquoisine that will ever be seen in England. The species was once a common aviary bird and bred freely, but aviculturalists, with a stupidity which cannot adequately be described in polite language, allowed it to vanish like the Paradise parrakeet *(P. pulcherrimus)* which is another lovely thing we shall never see again. A few years before the war a cock Turquoisine was sent me with some other grass parrakeets, but I did not keep him as his feet were bad; the price asked was exorbitant, and the chance of obtaining him a mate seemed nil; it would be interesting to know what became of him. A few months later, as luck would have it, I obtained a hen who lived for about two years. I did not dare to let her out for fear of septic fever, so kept her in a large cage with a cock Bluewing *(N. venusta)*. She made no attempt to nest, being, I think, rather an old bird.

On the outbreak of war I was obliged to transfer most of my birds to the care of a friend who did not possess that invaluable adjunct to a large collection,—" a hot room " for invalids; consequently when the Turquoisine caught a chill during the moult there was no means of saving her.

Of Elegant Grass Parrakeets *(N. elegans)* I had three in my early avicultural days. One committed suicide in its cage, one died of septic fever; and one a very tame cock, caught a chill when I unwisely turned him out with a cut wing. This species may be distinguished from its near relative *venusta* by showing less blue on the wing where the feathers also are of two distinct shades, light and dark blue. It is, I think, the largest of the family, and the frontal band of the cock is the most lovely and vivid colour imaginable.

Of Rock Grass Parrakeets *(N. petrophila)* I received two cocks from Hagenbeck in the summer of 1913—tame little fellows who would feed from the hand, and who lived together on the best of terms. Their colouring was rather subdued a uniform brownish green with a little dark blue on the wings, and a small frontal band of the same colour. One contracted a fatal chill after I had had him about two years. The survivor I still possess. This summer I turned him into an aviary with a pair of Blue-wings, and an odd hen of the same species with whom he paired. Both hens nested but their eggs were clear. The two ladies did not quarrel but broke one or two of each other's eggs in an attempt to run a joint establishment which was ultimately abandoned in favour of separate ménages. Their husbands remained apparently on good terms while they were sitting.

With the advent of chilly weather in October, the Rock and the two hen Blue-wings, who were moulting, began to look humpy and had to be taken in. The cock Blue-wing I am leaving out in the hope that he may stand the winter, and be in better trim for breeding next season.

The Blue-winged Grass Parrakeet *(N. venusta)* is the only species which is at all frequently imported; I have had quite a number at different times, but until I gave my aviaries an inner lining of string netting my casualty list was a heavy one. String netting might sound a risky device, owing to the danger of the birds getting entangled, but in practice I have not found it so, as *venusta* never settles on a vertical surface if it can possibly avoid doing so. Where grass parrakeets are kept with other birds it would, however, be wise to substitute thick branches for netting.

The Blue-winged Grass Parrakeet nests freely in confinement both in an aviary and in a large cage, but careful management is needed to secure fertile eggs. For three or four seasons I have had eggs from different pairs (one of the most prolific and regular breeders being a hen with one foot missing), but with no result, the birds being kept either in cages or in small covered aviaries. I started this season with much better aviary accomodation, my stock consisting of three pairs and an odd hen. On the first night they were turned out a violent thunderstorm occurred and next day there were *two* pairs and an odd hen, the others having killed themselves against the wire in their fright. I registered a vow never to turn another Grass Parrakeet into an unprotected wire enclosure, caught up the survivors, put in the string netting and returned the birds. I expected the usual clear eggs, as the summer was well advanced and the birds had been caged all winter, but whether it was the roomy open-air flight, or the fact that I was using a cock hitherto untried, I cannot say, but an agreeable surprise awaited me and the best pair not only hatched their four eggs, but reared their young to maturity on a diet of seed and groundsel. The behaviour of the old birds while incubating and feeding their young did not differ materially from that of Broad-tail Parrakeets, i.e. the hen alone sat, and both sexes fed the nestlings. When I first saw the latter they had just got on the wing and were nearly as big as their parents, though their tails were not fully grown. The conspicuous blue wing patch was replaced by green, and their beaks were of the peculiar pale colour seen in very young Rosellas. A spell of cold heavy rain in October made one of the young birds show signs of an incipient chill, so I brought the whole family indoors into comfortable winter quarters.

With Bourke's Parrakeets I have been, on the whole, unfortunate, though it is the hardiest member of the group. Some years ago there were quite a number in this country, but I fear they have now been allowed to die out, and I do not know of anyone who still keeps them.

My first were given me by a friend who had bred quite a lot. As I had no aviary accommodation at the time I tried them at liberty with cut wings, but the experiment ended disastrously some dying of chill and the rest providing a meal for a barn owl. Later I acquired two breeding pairs and an odd cock. Three spent the winter in a very large, partly heated aviary with an outdoor flight, and the others in an indoor aviary, also slightly heated. I had many deaths from chill in both aviaries, but the Bourke's were not among the casualties which shows that they can stand unfavourable temperature conditions as well as most Parrakeets, and better than some.

In spring I removed everything from the two aviaries except the Bourke's and two pairs of Red-capped Parrakeets. The pair in the large aviary laid an egg or two but sat very steadily, and hatched nothing. The pair in the other aviary selected an enormous barrel which would almost have held a Macaw, and succeeded in rearing two young. One of the latter damaged its head badly soon after it left the nest, but recovered from this injury only to die later from a chill. The old hen died of septic fever the same autumn.

The following season I removed the Red-capped Parrakeets from the large aviary, so as to leave the three Bourke's absolutely undisturbed. The cock of the pair killed the odd cock as soon as he came into breeding condition. Eggs were laid and two young fully reared only to commit suicide a few weeks later. A second clutch from the parents failed to hatch.

The cock of the other pair mated with his surviving daughter, but she died egg-bound during a chilly spell of late autumn weather. Her father survived until last summer when he met with a fatal accident.

The pair are still alive but have done no good since they were moved from their first home. In 1915 they were kept in a large cage and did not try to breed. In 1916 they spent the summer in a small covered aviary where the hen dropped an egg from the perch. This season they had an outdoor aviary, but got no further than inspecting the nest box. I thought of leaving them out all winter, but latterly have decided to bring them into a warm room, where it will be safe to allow them to nest before the fine weather returns. Bourke's are difficult birds to sex, especially when seen singly; the other Grass Parrakeets are much easier, as the blue frontal band is very small or altogether wanting in the female. Owing no doubt to their desert habitat, Bourke's do not seem particularly keen on green-food, though they should never be without it, especially when rearing young. The other species are very fond of green stuff; groundsel suits them as well as anything and they will also eat apple.

Before concluding this article I should like to add something on the wider subject of bird-keeping in general. Most people keep birds for the enjoyment they derive from their beauty and interesting ways. This is all very well, but do we, as aviculturists, realize that our hobby should involve the recognition of two important duties hitherto much neglected; the preservation of rare species from extinction, and the humane treatment of birds in general and of captive birds in particular? When an interesting or beautiful species is growing rare in a wild state, is it not worth while to maintain an adequate stock in our aviaries, even if, by so doing, we have to forego the keeping of as many new kinds as we may wish? Is it not also worth while, by doing far more home breeding, and by encouraging each other in this direction, to cut down, as far as possible, the importation of birds from abroad (I speak of course of normal times) which is usually attended by cruelty and waste of life? Lastly is it not desirable, by encouraging dealers who keep their stock humanely and by boycotting, as far as possible, those who do not, to raise the deplorably low standard of the bird trade? It is not enough that birds should look well while in our own possession; we should be able to know that they have reached us without suffering, and also that they will receive good treatment in other hands if we should be obliged to part with them. There is a lot of bad aviculture about at present, and I fear that some of it is due to indifference and not ignorance. If you know for certain that you have not a reasonable chance of keeping a bird happy and in tip-top condition for something like the period of its natural life, for goodness' sake do not keep it at all, and if it is cheap and common and you do not much prize it that is no excuse for doing it badly. Lastly do not overcrowd and do not keep birds together which are always bullying each other; even if they are not killed outright the weaker ones often die from some indirect result of continual harrying. Think how you would enjoy it yourself if you were to be shut up with a ferocious and ill-tempered German, who was always trying to hit you, and never gave you a moment's peace. If you keep a mixed collection, let there be harmony in it, and let that harmony be the result of careful selection of sex, species, and individuals, and of judicious aviary construction and planting. Don't let it be (as it often is) the result of such overcrowding that the birds are tired of pecking each other, or of such bad management that they are too listless and mopy to quarrel. Let us place our hobby above reproach, and make it a means of preserving for future generations some of the beautiful living creatures which God has placed on the earth and man threatens to destroy.

The Long-tailed Tit.

By Lieut. F. Dawson-Smith.

I do not get much leisure for writing in these tremendous days, but I am always glad to do my bit towards supplying matter for our Magazine, and so helping our over-burdened Editor. Therefore, when we retire to a Rest Camp, I find relief in turning my thoughts away from the tumult of War and its attendant horrors, back to the days before the War Lord flung down the gauntlet; the days of peace when my friends—the birds—and I

Long-tailed Tit.

"Were more intimate acquaint,"

and then I take my pencil and write my remembrance and reminiscences for Bird Notes. And this time I will discourse on the subject of the Long-tailed Tit.

This beautiful little bird is a very well-known inhabitant of the country-side, and very attractive by reason, also, of its elegant form and ceaseless activity, an avian illustration of perpetual motion. Long-tailed Tits are sociable birds and are almost invariably seen in the autumn and winter in small parties, usually consisting of a leader and a following of about ten or twelve others. When they are at work they are far from silent, although, being such diminutive creatures, the volume of sound is not great. The note sounds rather like " Zee-Zee," and they have another cry which resembles a whirring or churring sound. No doubt they consume a large number of insects, in the wild state, especially as they are very gluttonous, and possess a huge appetite quite out of proportion to their size. It is an interesting sight to watch a party of these birds working along a hedge or from bush to bush, seeking their insect food, and assuming all sorts of acrobatic positions. They are not shy birds, and it is an easy matter to approach quite close to watch them. Thus the observer can note the extreme beauty of their plumage, and dainty shape, with the long tail, longer than the little bird itself, from which it derives its name. The nest is a model of elegance, usually found in a bush, although I remember once finding a nest quite high up in the fork of a tree and quite in the open. But that is unusual, and most of the nests I have seen have been in thorny bushes. The nest, which is domed, is made of grey lichen and moss, outside, harmonising well with its surroundings and of a wonderfully neat build. Dry grass is used as an inner covering to the moss, while the inside of the whole structure is composed of a thick layer of feathers, thus making the completed nest a beautiful, compact and snug home for the tiny Tits when hatched. It has always been a puzzle to me where the mother bird puts her tail when sitting on her tiny eggs of white with faint red spots. I imagine it must be cocked up towards the top of the nest. There cannot be much room for the young ones when they are hatched, as the long-tailed Tit keeps a large family, anything from six to ten being about the usual number.

This species is short-lived in confinement. If it can carry on for two or three years, its owner can consider he has achieved a remarkable success. I once owned a specimen for a few weeks only, and then parted with it. While in my possession it proved extremely tame, and would sit on the hand to be fed. In the photograph which I took, it can be seen sitting contentedly on somebody's hand, and quite unconcerned under the ordeal of being "snapped."

Its food, while with me, consisted of any insects or spiders I could catch, live ants' eggs, tiny mealworms, usually cut up, and hard boiled eggs crumbled. Nobody ever saw it partake of the insect food, but it hugely appreciated a small twig of a rose tree, covered with aphides.

Dainty and interesting as it was, I do not think I shall keep another one in captivity. I am glad, however, to have been able to study the bird under the conditions and certainly, when, during a country ramble, I come across any of these little birds, or discover their "little grey home" in the nesting season, I always pause and admire their gay and sprightly demeanour and the beauty of the nest and the architect.

◆

Whydahs.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O.

(For the meaning of abbreviations used in this list *vide* page 186, last Vol.).

(Continued from p. 264—last Vol.)

WHITE-WINGED WHYDAH.

Coliostruthus albonotata. H.L. v. 411.

Synonomy.

I

White-winged Widow-bird. Natal White-winged Whydah.

II

Vidua albonotata. Cassin. 1848. *Urobrachya albonotata* (Bp. 1850).

Penthetria albonotata (F. and H. 1870). and Cat. 219.

Coliuspasser albonotatus (Sh. 1886).

References. A coloured plate which it shares with *C. concolor* appeared with Cassin's original description in the Journal of the Philadelphia Academy, 1849. i. 241. Pl. 30. Sh. iv. 46. B.S.A. i. 139. Butler. i. 190. Russ. i. 220.

Range. S.E. Africa (Natal to Rovuma River).

This is a distinctly smaller bird than those just dealt with. The male in full colour is black with small lemon yellow and larger white wing patches. According to Stark it is nowhere common, and therefore one does not wonder that it is but rarely imported into this country. Nevertheless it has been bred in Germany and also in this country, where according to a note on page 261 of B.N. 1915, two young of this species were reared that year in the aviary of Mr. Teschemaker, for the first time in the British Isles.

The eggs are described by Nehrkorn as " deep blue, with dull red and violet spots clustering towards the thick end." (Sh. iv. 48).

◆

ANGOLA WHITE-WINGED WHYDAH.

Coliostruthus asymmetrura. H.L. v. 411.

Synonomy.

Penthetria asymmetrura. Reichenow. 1892.
Coliuspasser asymmetrurus (Sh. 1896).

Range. W. and S.W. Africa (Gabion to the Cunene River).

This species is like the preceding from which it is distinguished by the much longer tail of the male. (Sh. iv. 49).

◆

SPEKE'S WHITE-WINGED WHYDAH.

C. eques. H.L. v. 411.

Synonomy.

Vidua eques. Hartlaub. P.Z.S. 1863. 106. Pl. 15.

Penthetria eques (Cab. 1878), and B.M. Cat. 220.
Urobrachya eques (Fischer. 1885).
Coliuspasser eques (Sh. 1886) and B. Afr. iv. 45.

REFERENCES. Plate; see above *(Vidua eques)*.

RANGE. E. Africa (Somaliland to Semliki Valley, S. to Uhehe).

This eastern representative of the White-winged Whydahs is distinguished from the others by the yellow patch at the bend of the wing being bordered with chestnut. Neither it nor the Angola bird have, as far as I know, been yet imported alive.

YELLOW-BACKED WHYDAH.

Penthetriopsis macrura. H.L. v. 412.

Synonomy.

I

Yellow-backed Widow-bird; Yellow-mantled Whydah.
* Long-tailed Grosbeak (Lth).

II

Loxia moineau. Mull. 1776. *Vidua moineau* (Gray. 1870).
Loxia macroura. Gm. 1788. *Vidua macroura.* (Gray. 1849).
Pentheria macrura (Bp. 1850). *Penthetria macrura* (Cab. 1850).
Coliostruthus macrurus (Cassin. 1859).
Coliuspasser macrurus (Sh. 1886). *Penthetriopsis macrura* (Sharpe. B.M. Cat. xiii. 220).
Fringilla flavoptera. VII. 1805.
Fringilla chrysoptera. VII. 1823.
Vidua chrysonotus. Sw. 1837.
Penthetria flaviscapulata. Antinori (nec Rüpp.) 1864.

RANGE. W. Africa (Senegambia to Angola). Equatorial Africa. E. Africa.

REFERENCES. Butler. F.F. 293. Plate. ♂ ♀. Cassell. 402 Pl. ♂. Russ. i. 218. Pl. 7. ♂. Singv. 62. Pl. 27. Butler. i. 190. Gedney. ii. 131 Sh. iv. 49.

The Yellow-backed Whydah is quite well-known as a cage-bird, and though never common has been at times imported in fair numbers. I once had more than thirty at one time in the Gambia, where in a few localities they are quite common, but unfortunately lost the lot through an accident. In spite however of its comparative commonness, there is no record of its having yet been bred in captivity, and very little is known of its wild life. According to Butler, Reichenow's account of the habits of birds observed at Accra would suggest that polygamy is not in this species the rule as it is with other Whydahs. He also quotes Shelley's description of the eggs:—"pale green or greenish grey spotted with grey."

◆

Penthetriopsis conradsi. Neumann. 1908. H.L. v. 412.

RANGE. Victoria Nyanza (Ukerewe Peninsula).

Another yellow-backed bird, of which I know nothing but the above from the Hand List.

◆

YELLOW-SHOULDERED WHYDAH.

Penthetriopsis macrocerca. H.L. v. 412.

Synonomy.

I

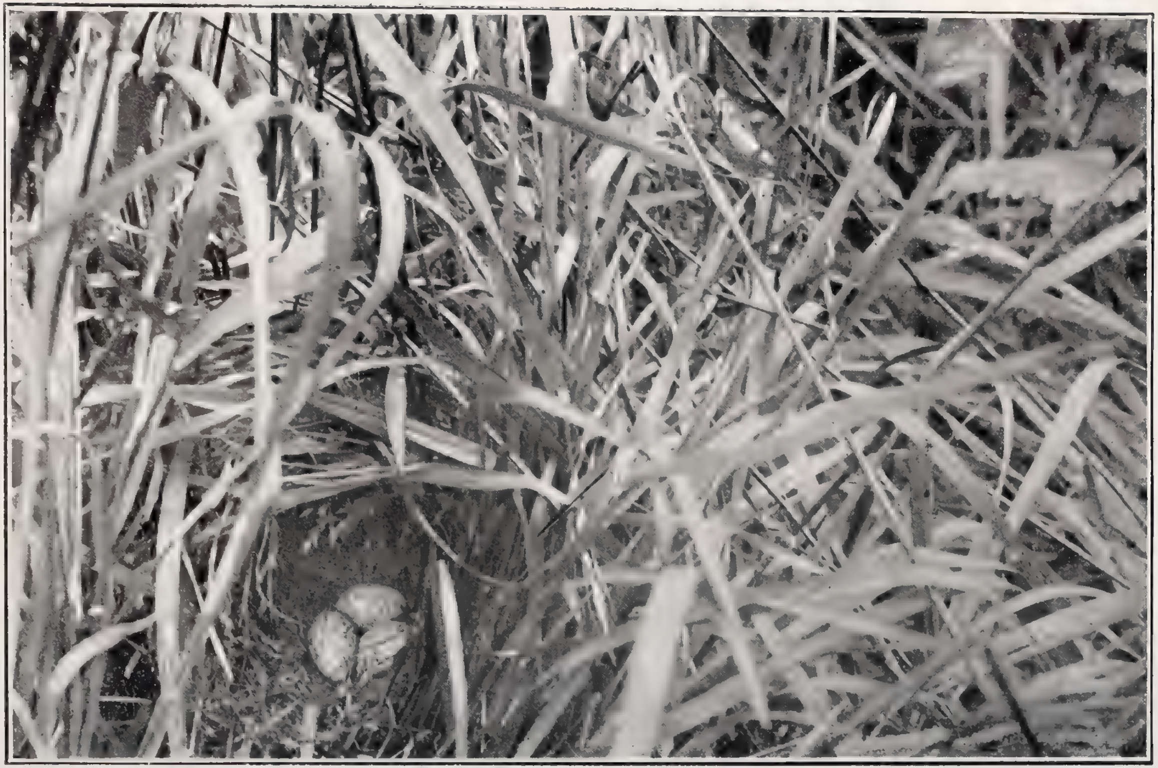
Yellow-shouldered Widow-bird.
Lichtenstein's Yellow-shouldered Whydah.
* Yellow-shouldered Oriole (Brown. 1776).

II

Fringilla macrocerca. Licht. 1823. *Vidua macrocerca* (Des Murs 1845). *Penthetria macrocerca* (Cab. 1850). *Coliuspasser macrocercus* (Sh. 1886). *Penthetriopsis macrocerca* Sharpe. 1900. (B.M. Cat. xiii. 223).

Coliuspasser flaviscapulatus. (Rupp. 1835-40). *Penthetria flavis capulata* (Bp. 1850). *Penthetria flaviscapulata* (Gray, 1870) *Coliuspasser flaviscapulata* (Blanf. 1870).

REFERENCES. Singv. 63. Plate. 27. Russ. i. 217. Sh iv. TW.



Nest and Eggs of Jackson's Whydah.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Range. N.E. Africa (Abyssinia, Shoa).

A very occasionally imported species, of which Russ even had heard of only two specimens in captivity in his time, and from the absence of records it does not seem to have got any commoner since. The plumage of the adult male is all black, set off by yellow patches at the angles of the wings.

◆

REICHENOW'S YELLOW-SHOULDERED WHYDAH.

Penthetriopsis soror. H.L. v. 412.

Synonomy.

Penthetria soror. Reich. 1887. *Penthetriopsis soror* (Sharpe. 1890. Cat. p. 223). *Coliuspasser soror* (Sh. 1896).

Range. Equatorial Africa (Victoria Nyanza).

References. Sh. iv. 53. Plate 24. ♀.

This, Captain Shelley says, is the Equatorial representative of the preceding, of which it is merely a smaller edition. It is not yet known in captivity, but appears to be common locally in its native country.

◆

JACKSON'S WHYDAH.

Drepanoplectes jacksoni. H.L. v. 412.

Synonomy.

Drepanoplectes jacksoni (Sharpe. 1891). *Coliuspasser jacksoni.* (Shelley. 1896). *Coliuspasser jacksoni* (Shelley. 1905).

References. Sharpe. *Ibis.* 1891. 246. Plate. v. Sh. iv. 55

Range. Equatorial Africa (Victoria Nyanza). British E. Africa (Machakos to Lake Baringo).

Jackson's Whydah is quite a recent addition to aviculture, as the first specimens to be imported alive into the United Kingdom were those received by the Zoo in 1910. In spite of this however, there is a good deal more on record about it than there is about many of the other longer-known species. The dance and displays of the males, which take place in chosen spots in the grass, where the ground soon becomes bare and trampled down with the jumps, gyrations and scratching of the birds, was first described by the discoverer of the species, in the *Ibis* of 1899 (p. 599). This account Shelley gives in full and it is also quoted in BIRD NOTES, 1911. p. 301. Indeed so much well-deserved attention has this Whydah received in our pages, that I need do no more here than refer my readers to the various articles.

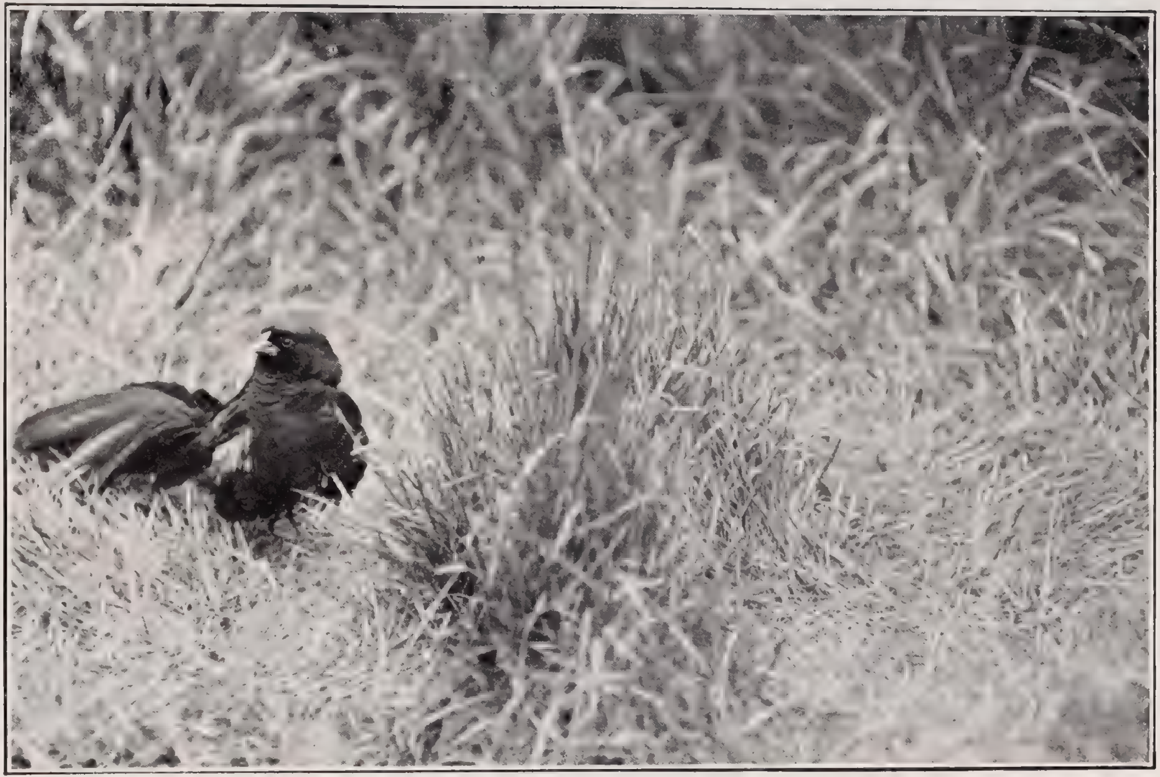
With the account just quoted is given an excellent plain plate of the male in full colour, which shows well the cock-curved tail and the general look of the bird, while extracts from other writers in the *Ibis* amplify Mr. Jackson's notes. In the 1914 volume (p. 195), the Editor gave us a full account of the habits of the bird in captivity, of its dance, dancing places etc., as seen in the aviary. In 1915 we have some notes by Mr. Low accompanied by photographs (p. 228), while in the following year Mr. Shore Baily is able to record the successful breeding of the species in an article illustrated with photos of the bird, the nest and eggs. The latter are here described as "greenish white, blotched and spotted with various shades of brown and grey."

The next genus *Urobrachya* is distinguished from the other Whydahs by the fact that there is no increase, or at least no marked increase in the length of the tail in the full-plumaged males, but like the other Whydahs and many of the Weavers the neck feathers elongate and can be erected into a sort of ruff during the breeding season. The adult males, when in full colour, are glossy black with red, orange or yellow shoulder-patches. The undress is of the usual Whydah and Weaver type, brown spotted with darker brown or black, alike in male and female, though the adults of the former are always to be distinguished (Sh. iv. 59) by the bright rufous of the under wing-coverts, which is retained throughout the year.

◆

NATAL FAN-TAILED WHYDAH.

Urobrachya axillaris. H.L. v. 412.



Jackson's Whydah on its Dancing Ground.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Synonomy.

I

Red-shouldered Whydah. Red-shouldered Widow-bird.
Short-tailed Whydah.
" Flop " in Natal.

II

Vidua axillaris. Smith 1838. *Urobrachya axillaris* (Bp. 1850). & Cat. 224. & Sh. B. Afr.
Penthetria axillaris (Licht. 1854). *Coliuspasser axillaris* (Sh. 1886).

References. Smith. Ill. Zool. S. Afr. Aves. Plate. 17. (1838). Singv. 64. Plate. 29. fig. 229. Sh. iv. 60. B.S.A. i. 134. Butler. i. 191. Russ. i. 221.

Range. S.E. Africa (Pondoland to the Zambesi).

Stark writes as follows on these Whydahs. " Like all the " members of this genus they are polygamous in their habits, " and in the spring the handsome males, looking very brilli" ant and spruce in their recently acquired plumage of velvety" black, with scarlet and orange epaulettes, may be seen " flitting over the reeds or grass with a curious " flopping " " flight each one attended and closely followed in all his " movements by ten or twelve females, insignificant-looking " little brown birds, which nearly always keep close together " in a " bunch " a few yards behind their lord and master. " About the beginning of November the females separate and " commence building their nests." He goes on to say that each occupies a separate nest, the cock in the meantime taking no share in the business, except to watch for and give warning at the approach of intruders. The nest, he describes, as usually built in a tuft of grass, 8 to 10 inches off the ground, " a beauti" fully light and airy structure, oval in shape and domed, with " a side entrance near the top; it measures about four inches " and a half in height, and three inches in diameter, is cons" tructed of fine grass with the flowering tops attached, " woven in a sort of open network, so that the sides can be " seen through without any additional lining. The sides of " the nest are attached to many of the surrounding grass" stalks, the blades and tops of the latter being bent over in " the form of a canopy so as to completely conceal it from "above. The eggs.........are three in number. They have a "highly polished surface of clear sea-green, marked with "large spots and blotches of deep olive-brown."

In B. N. 1916, Mr. Shore Baily describes the nesting of his aviary pair of Red-shouldered Whydahs, which were probably of this species, though received by him as Bocage,'s, which however, has orange shoulders. He gives a photo of the nest and eggs, which unfortunately is as far as the birds got, and which is the nearest to a breeding success that has so far been reached by any one in this country. Mr. Teschemaker tells us in the A. M. for 1910, that it has been bred in Germany.

ZANZIBAR FAN-TAILED WHYDAH.

Urobrachya hildebrandti. H.L. v. 413.

Synonomy.

Urobrachya zanzibarica. Shelley. 1881. & B. Afr. 64.
U. hildebrandti. Sharpe. 1890. Cat. 225.
U. phoenicea hildebrandti. (Reich. 1904).

References. Sh. iv. 64. Plate. 30 fig. 1.
Range. E. Africa (Witu to Kondeland).

(To be Continued).

◆

Attempt to Rear Rheas with Turkey Foster-mothers.

By R. Scott Miller, F.Z.S.

In 1916 I had a true pair of Rheas (South American Ostrich) and when the hen started to lay, it occurred to me that I might save the eggs and try if I could hatch them and rear the chicks by means of Turkeys.

One usually finds that the first few eggs of ducks and geese are infertile, so I kept the first four merely for their shells. Later on, when corresponding with a friend on the subject he told me he found the first four or so always infertile and hard-boiled them for use as nest eggs. The next eight my keeper placed under a turkey hen, kindly lent by a lady in the neighbourhood. These eggs unfortunately proved infertile or were more probably fertile, but there being, perhaps, too many for the turkey to cover properly, may have got chilled. The result from the next seven, for which I also borrowed a turkey, was the same and out of the next six I managed to hatch but one chick with another turkey, and I therefore concluded I had given the birds too many eggs, though they appeared to cover them with ease. Anyhow, if experimenting further I would give each turkey only four eggs, so as to make sure the latter got a full share of heat.

I succeeded in proving, however, that it is possible to get a turkey to sit on such large eggs and also, I think, successfully incubate them. Being much the same size as Emu's eggs the latter could also be tried. The advantages of using turkeys are that these can be set under cover, and also you have several nests instead of only one to depend on. These eggs take six weeks to hatch and it is rarely that we get six weeks without a few heavy showers, and, if these are heavy enough to flood the nest, either the eggs get chilled or your Rhea forsakes and in either case you lose the entire clutch. Whereas even if a turkey does forsake, and that is very unlikely, you only lose a few eggs.

The turkey was very pleased with her chick, which, of course was not unlike a young turkey, but much larger, and if the weather had been decent, I am sure we would have had no difficulty in rearing it; unfortunately it was, by this time, well on in September and very cold for that time of the year, so that the little creature only lingered on for about a week and then died. We sheltered it as well as we could, but, as these creatures eat a great deal of green food, I felt I must keep the chick on a nice fresh grass run.

My Rhea hen started laying about the second week in April, generally every third day, and laid 25 eggs, each weighing about 18 ounces. These are a beautiful bright primrose yellow colour when laid, but fade in a few days to a washy yellow, even when brought into the house. The old birds I find quite hardy, for though they have a shed they never use it, preferring to sit out at night even in snow. Unforunately this spring my cock Rhea killed his mate and I have been unable to find another, and would be glad to hear of one for next season.

In conclusion it may be of interest to those of our members who are unacquainted with the breeding habits of these birds just to explain these briefly. The birds live in small flocks and when the breeding season arrives the male scrapes out a nest in the ground, lining it barely with straws and fine twigs (probably only straws in his native country, which is the Pampas); he then induces some of the hens to lay there, and after he has collected from nine to fifteen eggs he sits on them, hatching and rearing the chicks himself. The hens meantime take up with another cock and so he also gets a batch of eggs to incubate., and this probably goes on all summer if the birds lay as well as mine did.

Young Rhea (one week old).

My Pet Toucanette.

By K. Woodward.

We all have our favourite bird and mine is a Toucan or Toucanette *(Aracari)* called the " Gentleman " and the freshest thing I ever owned. He is now biting the pencil and my fingers as I try to compose this letter, but if the Editor wants my unscientific jottings, let us start at the beginning. Looking around a shop fifteen months ago, acquaintance was first struck up by scratching his head through the bars. The price was ascertained and somebody nearly died right there, and it wasn't the bird, but yet I knew he would be mine and he was next day. As it was a new importation the bird remained in this store for seasoning and I used to play with him until one time the inspector, witnessing the exhibition and the crowd which had gathered, voiced his objections to a stranger playing with the firm's property. Explanations were made and apologies accepted. The " Gentleman " changed his boarding-house right there and then. The name was given by the butler who marvelled at the variety and expense of his menu. One day he bit me, and made a wonderful job of it, as the nail of the first finger soon came off and I had " some " sore hand with a nasty saw cut across it. Petting ceased, and remained so for some months. He had my goat and I was afraid to touch him.

Six months elapsed when out of a clear sky I see a title flashed on the screen of a lady who tames birds and then by the movies she proves it. You can imagine my excitement when her subjects were shown to be Toucans. Naturally, the " Gentleman " went boarding out. He is back now and I am the boss, but what a bump of curiosity he possesses. Everything must be picked and pulled with his powerful beak and his investigations are liable to be very complete. Diamond rings, taking the finger along too, are his speciality. Watch chains and buttons are substitutes. Girls having none are not on his list of acquaintances. They are not, and are all afraid; furthermore, the " Gentleman " knows it and goes for them. While I am shaving he sits on the arm of the mirror; eats his breakfast at the table, oatmeal, bread in coffee, fruit and butter balls. These latter he loves, and to take them away, slippery as they are, is "some" job. Gum, jam, and candy he will not eat. All the rest, including snakes and mice, if you gave them,—yes! To be scratched is wonderful and the operation is assisted by throwing out all the feathers that a fellow may have the full effect on his skin. Purring accompanies same. When harsh he is voicing displeasure, watch out or get nipped. That is what he is now doing on the pencil. It should be his, but as I can't see it that way my fingers get it. When scolded he departs to the far corner to sulk (for a few seconds only). Curiosity is the greatest treat. Open a drawer and he must see what is therein. Must also help (?) in the morning when food for the day is being prepared, when cleaning cages, changing water, investigate your shoe laces and eyes. In short, all and everything.

A white Java Sparrow, sharing his room, 18ft. x 12ft. x 8ft., is not molested, though finger tame and petted, the "Gentleman" is apparently not jealous. Not so with a troupial in a rather large brass cage. The door was one day left open, and Troupial was rescued minus his scalp feathers and considerably mussed and hurt in the leg.

He dislikes the butler and, I believe, the reason follows:—Eating lunch one day of hamburger steak, bread and butter, apple from pie, etc., we were longer than the others and the table was cleared, all except the water glasses. When the first of these started to go, so did the "Gentleman," and he got what he went after, the butler's hand, gripping and shaking it like a dog. The water remained and the butler departed, whereupon his highness took sundry and copious draughts, just an any regular bird should do with his meals! This is the only way I can account for the dislike, as formerly the butler stood in better than I did.

These dark nights upon returning home I hold my hand under the electric light which I turn on in the hall and call the boy. Out he comes and lights on the wing for a worm or grape and a talk.

The bird show is the "Gentleman's" delight. Everyone pats him and the more the better, but home the day after,—not the usual if any attention, then let any one go near him! Some savage, and remains so for a week or more.

Has anyone tried this with their toucans? I know three that do it, and probably it is a common trait. Breathe on the hind quarter, just under and at the tip of the wing and watch him stand on one foot, cock his head, swell up and open, and place across his back the wing you blow under. This posture is held for a long time and only relaxed gradually to normal. Then do it again. Brother, it's fine.

Has anybody got a mate, and if so could she be gotten over?

◆

A Reminiscence.

By Miss A. Bruce.

The appeals of our Editor for copy for our Magazine, and a wish to help, in however small a way, to lighten his burden in connection with it, have prompted me to write a few reminiscences of a bird-friend of pre-war days.

The bird in question, a EUROPEAN BEE-EATER, was not my property, but belonged to our member, Lady Kathleen Pilkington. I was, however, privileged to have an intimate acquaintance with him during the whole of his life in her possession. A letter arrived one morning from Messrs. De Von, offering a European- Bee-Eater. This sounded attractive, an answer was sent, and in due time the Bee-Eater arrived.

Our knowledge of their habits at that time was nil; however, tempting insect food was placed in a large flight cage, and there also was placed the Bee-Eater. On a perch he sat, looking lovely, chirruping in a friendly manner when anyone came near, but he never came down from the perch or touched the food. Mealworms were put in the cage, but in vain. After some hours of this we became agitated. At last his owner had an inspiration and offered him a mealworm on a quill. This was greedily taken and the situation saved. For the first week he was fed with the quill entirely; mealworms, wasp grubs and gentles were administered in this manner. After a week he partially fed himself, but he never did so willingly, and if he knew anyone was in the room, insisted always on being fed, giving plaintive, helpless chirps and fluttering his wings in a way that plainly intimated he was starving in the midst of plenty. He never touched any insectivorous mixture, but would take gentles and wasp grubs. His favourite food was mealworms of which he ate prodigious quantities; he has taken as many as 30 at a time from the writer's fingers; this was in pre-war times! He was never seen to drink or bathe, though he always looked neat and trim. He also never came down to the ground; they are not addicted to running or hopping, but he used to fly a good deal in his cage. His chief and most attractive characteristic was his extreme and confiding friendliness; he depended on his friends for all the necessities of his life, and showed a helplessness which was most endearing. If anyone came into the room he would call loudly for attention, coming to the bars of his cage for conversation and a mealworm, and was without a trace of nervousness.

After the food difficulty was settled he seemed quite easy to keep, and was always in the best of health and plumage, passing through the winter without any special care. When Lady Kathleen had owned him for over a year he met with his death owing to the carelessness of the writer, who left his cage door open. This had been done before and he had never shown the slightest wish to leave his cage. On this occasion the room was empty, the window open, and he got into the garden. He was in the garden two days, during which time he had no food, as, on any attempt to fly, he was at once mobbed by a crowd of vociferous sparrows, and driven back into the trees. On the topmost branches he sat, calling loudly and plaintively for help from his agonised friends below, but too helpless to come down to them, or his cage, and safety. On the evening of the second day a gardener marked him down in a tree, climbed it and got him, but whether he had caught cold, it was a wet day, or whether the sparrows had injured him, was not known; he never recovered from the effects of his adventure, and died after about ten days, to the great regret of his many friends.

◆

Editorial.

The times we live in forbid anything more than " holding on," nevertheless that is no reason why the pages of our Journal, be they many or few, should not surpass any that have preceded them, nor the work of the Foreign Bird Club be less efficient than in previous years. What we are able to do should at least be well done.

But if the work of the year, however limited its scope, is to be efficient, all must do their part.

There must not be thoughtless slackness in the payment of subscriptions and the remittance of arrears, as these are the only means of meeting our financial engagements. In like manner all must do their part in supplyiny copy, that our pages may be filled with varied and interesting matter—remember that quite a fair proportion of the articles of the last volume were writen by those serving at the front, in the intervals of duty or during their short leaves—they are proud of the Journal and are looking to those of us, whose sphere of service is at home, safe from the dangers and horrors of the various fighting fronts, to " cairy on."

If our aviaries are only partly stocked and so called *eventful* episodes but few, let us see that we are thorough to secure and record the most complete data possible. There are many of us, who can recall from the near past, many interesting events that have not been recorded, many of which should prove of practical interest to their fellow members, and help to fill the gap of the dull months before the events of spring and summer are coming in.

There is a question many of us would do well to consider.

Are we living up to the motto on the title page of each volume?

> " *By mutual confidence and mutual aid,*
> " *Great deeds are done and great discoveries made.*"

Surely there is room for progress in this direction whatever " the times " may be!

Your officers have sought to establish a regular sale and exchange system among ourselves, and up to the present but little progress has been made. Why? The reasons we think are somewhat as follows:—

> The notices respecting such are read and probably approved of, then promptly forgotten!
>
> Perhaps some may consider the method chosen neither the best nor the most practical one, yet are too slack either to make any suggestion or point out wherein it falls short!

Shall this dilatory state of things continue, or shall there be progress in this direction during the year? Details of a scheme of Sale and Exchange will be formulated in next issue.

Aviculturists generally have failed to perpetuate species in their aviaries, except perhaps in the case of the Budgerigar, so as to place us independent of outside sources. One reason of this lies in the above—we have not availed ourselves of opportunity, and there is no sale and exchange method running, save advertising perhaps in the moment of need, and then too often failing to get what we want. And it is the rank and file of members that are chiefly to blame for this—they have had the means but failed to use it!

Your officers, however great their energy or interest, can accomplish nothing apart from the loyal co-operation of every member. In other words, there can be no *live* society, unless each member is doing his or her part.

All who trouble to read the monthly issues of our Journal, *must* be aware that the income of the club from subscriptions is insufficient for its effective working, yet most feel the annual subscription is as high as it ought to be! Yet many hinder by being slack in remitting their subscriptions and thus needlessly increase the working expenses of the Club and add to the work of our officers.

Another way of improving matters is to increase our membership—yet how few assist in doing this! A glance through the coloured pages of the last five vols. of BIRD NOTES should come as a shock to all, when they realise how few have taken part in this important aid to our progress.

The same might be pointed out as to contributing articles and illustrations to our Journal, and similarly so as to every feature of the Club's work—each monthly issue should be a reminder to each reader of all that has been written above—war times, pre-war times or post-war times, if all be left to your officers, our success can only be partial. If all take a part and unitedly co-operate the result will be a live society in every feature of its work. Shall this be so?

More space has been occupied than can well be spared by the above, but the matter is an important one—whatever "the times" and they are difficult enough, the outlook is most hopeful for success—our chief difficulties are caused by members' slackness! The failure of members to do their part *must* act, to a greater or lesser degree, unfavourably upon the society, and, we earnestly commend the above to the consideration of our members—the future of the Club is what you make it, there can be no standing still, it will either be progressive or retrogressive.

The year marks a new era in our history, for the present issue is the first number of Vol. I. of a fresh series (Series III.), and we trust that one and all will do their part, that it will surpass in general merit and practical interest any that have preceded it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Lt. L. F. Lovell-Keays, who has been gazetted Captain.
Capt. E. C. Sprawson, who has been awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service.

Correspondence.

A LONG-LIVED NIGHTINGALE.

Sir,—At the request of our esteemed Editor, I am sending these few notes on my old nightingale, "Brownie," who, if he live till next May will have reached the age of ten years, nine of which he has spent with me. I obtained him in May, 1909, adult and a glorious songster. He has won many first and third prizes at the big shows; his last appearance was at the Horticultural Hall where he was first in a large class. Since then he has developed a stiff joint and no longer sings much; however, I hope to get him out again this next spring in a garden-aviary, where, for many years, people used to come and listen to him from the road outside the garden. He always spent the winter indoors; is extremely tame and perfect in feather; is fed on "Life" and insects; has a bath daily and a fly round the room, to which I attribute his keeping in such good health.

I certainly advise anyone who wants a tame pet bird and a songster, to try a nightingale, always supposing they have the leisure to look after it themselves.

Portmant Sq., December 16, 1917. GWENDOLEN BOURKE.

AVICULTURE IN THE U.S.A.

SIR.—One of your far-away members wonders if a letter from "over here" would be welcomed by the Editor, now that so many of the older and experienced writers have sterner duties to attend to. Aviculture as practised in England does not exist in this country. We have no large private aviaries, no magazines, and no shows to speak of. Some people keep a bird or two, generally a canary. Some more than that, but those having twenty or over can be numbered.

This year our show is off. War material has to be shipped and express companies are not guaranteeing the arrival of poultry at the exhibition, so the birds, cats and cavies, which are exhibited at the same time and place are knocked out. Nevertheless, our little display each year produced three hundred birds on the shelves, many roller collections and flight cages for exhibition. Ribbons were awarded in each class and trophies for the best bird and other specials. Breeding as you can imagine is not a thriving industry, not kept largely or out of doors in natural surroundings, only Zebra, Mina, Javas, Grass Parakeets, Japanese Nuns and the like are brought up in the bird room.

My own birds, sadly depleted now that the war has stopped importations, live in cages 6ft. x 6ft. x 4ft. and somewhat similar measurements, having twigs, nesting boxes, coco-nut husks, and bathing water all the time.

It was in the above cage, with forty birds therein, that a Yellow Grass Parrakeet was reared by papa, the shock of its birth having killed mamma. How he did it with Rosellas, Love Birds, Weavers, and other inquisitive species, and in such a crowded "tenement" has always mystified me. The only help father received was to have all the other birds, principally Japanese Robins, brushed away from six mealworms which were given every morning. This was the only time that father was ever tame. He can't be caught now without a net and a fight. January and February, with snow outside and cold, was the time it happened.

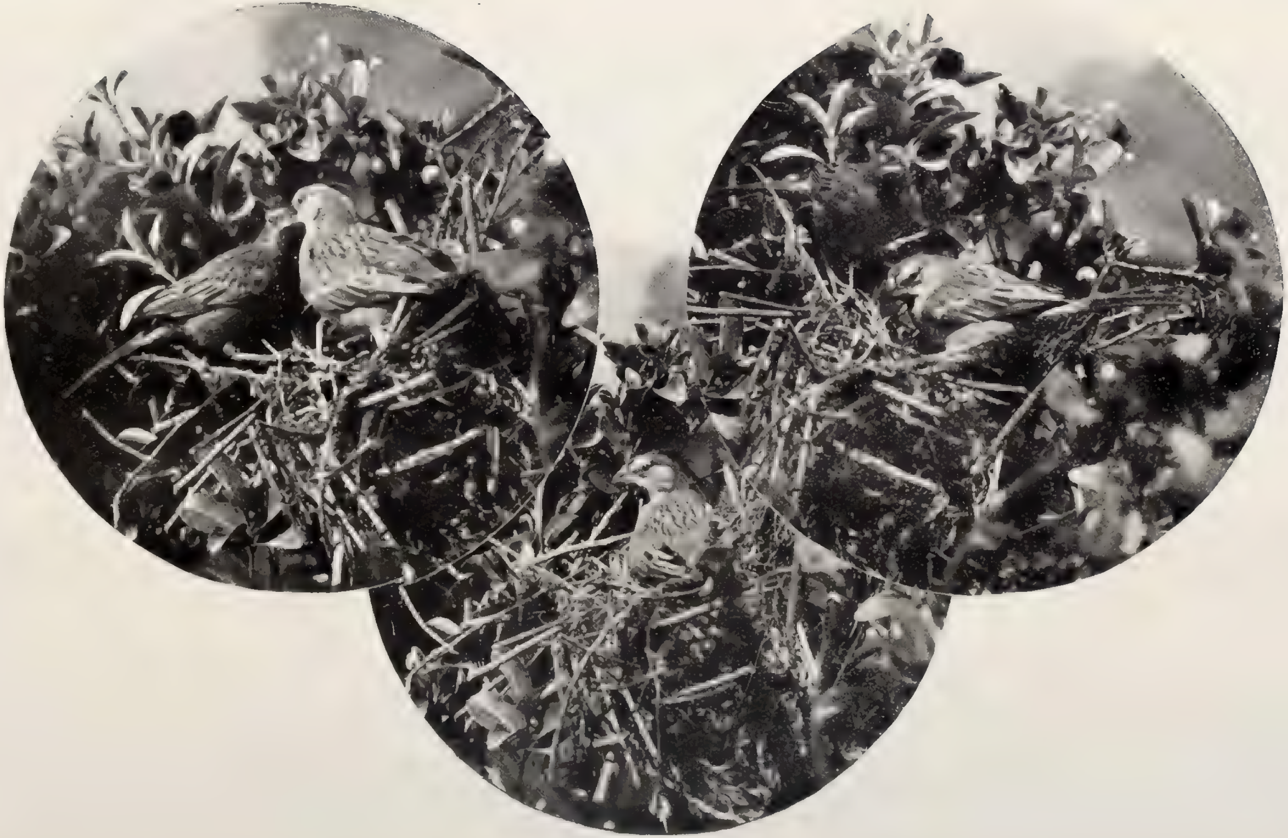
The little Finches in another cage lay fresh eggs all the time, but no one sits on same and the next party builds a nest on top until the box is full; house-cleaning is practised by me.

The English aviaries must be wonderful. The pictures and lists of breeding results tell the story. I hope to see them some day.

The above does not apply to the Zoological Parks, but even here all the cities I have visited including Canada, never had any of the smaller birds except New York. The display at the Bronx Park is complete and tastefully shown.

My birds are always exhibited under, "KENWOOD KOLLECTION."

New York City, Dec. 6, 1917. K. WOODWARD.



Green Cardinals.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Aviary Notes for 1917,

By Maurice Amsler, M.B., F.Z.S.

It is only a sense of duty to the Journal, which again forces me to manufacture some copy in order to satisfy the Editor's insatiable appetite. He has reminded me more than once that I have written nothing during the past year, but, as the Foreign Bird Club numbers some four-hundred members, a very forcible retort would be that I am not the only defaulter; anyone can send in notes of breeding successes and failures for the past season, and this is all I am capable of doing myself—having unfortunately no startling episode to narrate.

I have now a much diminished stock of birds owing to the difficulty if replacing voids produced, both by deaths and parting with birds which have proved either disappointing or undesirable.

My Orchard Finches *(Phrygilus fruticeti)* again reared young this summer and the offspring, a true pair, have gone to Mr. Shore Baily, who will give them an excellent home and the very best possible chance of reproducing their kind. I have hitherto failed to mention that the male of this species undergoes an autumnal eclipse, and that he dons the black gorget in the spring—the pearl grey breast of the winter plumage is to me more attractive than the somewhat severe nuptial plumage.

Green Cardinals *(Gubernatrix cristata)* reared three young; one of them I found had a broken thigh, high up near the hip, an accident which probably happened shortly after it left the nest by getting hung up in a forked twig or the wire netting. When I noticed the injury the fracture had already united and was in a very bad position, the hind toe pointing forwards. I refractured the thigh-bone and was able to place its leg in the correct position, but although the bird was caged and not allowed a perch, my splints did not do their work, and ten days later, on their removal, the limb was as deformed as ever. I therefore replaced him in the aviary to see how he would get on; although he had been absent a fortnight altogether its parents and brethren at once recognised him and gathered in a circle about him, making no end of a fuss over the prodigal's return; oddly enough they all went through the same antics spreading out their wings, raising their tails and bending back their heads, uttering at the same time a note I had never heard before; this only went on for a few minutes, and was put an end to by the young bird flying off to feed; a few days later I picked him up dead.

These Cardinals are very nice birds and much the freest breeders of their group; the Black-cheeked Cardinal,* of which I once had a pair, are my favourites however, but difficult to procure. This pair lived with me for four years in perfect health but without showing any signs of nesting. One day I picked up the hen dead and egg bound. Her mate at once began to mope and although I took every care of him he also was dead within a week. I used not to believe any bird capable of this, (certainly not a love-bird) but my opinion was a little shaken on this occasion, and I now think there is such a thing as a " broken heart."

Five pairs of ZEBRA FINCHES *(Taeniopygia castanotis)* in the next aviary to the Cardinals and Orchard Finches have hardly reared enough young to cover their seed bill. I believe they would do better in a more confined space with say, two nest boxes of the same pattern, to each pair—with me they do nothing but build, lay a few eggs and build again, so that at the end of the season the boxes are full of successive layers of hay and eggs.

ORANGE-HEADED GROUND THRUSHES *(Geocichla citrina)* in the same aviary did their best but hatched no young—my old cock, now five years old, is mated to his grand-daughter. Three clutches of eggs were laid and incubated for the full time, but not a single egg was even fertile; I cannot think that this was due to consanguinity, but rather to the male bird being too old.

In the aviary adjoining the Zebra Finches and Thrushes I have a mixed collection and several odd birds, for which I could not obtain mates; it is my best and most sheltered aviary and in it I bred nothing at all. Amongst the inmates was a pair each of Himalayan Goldfinches, Himalayan Siskins, a Cock Hooded Siskin mated to a British hen Siskin, whom he frequently fed, and a hen Lesser Saffron Finch mated to a Common Saffron Finch; the latter finally turned out to be a very bright coloured hen, so I naturally bred no hybrids!

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* *Paroaria nigrigenis.*

In the fourth large aviary I have a collection of Parrakeets, who seem to hit it off fairly well except for an occasional squabble over the possession of a certain perch or nest box

COCKATEELS *(Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae)* laid four clutches and reared eight young during the season.

RED-RUMPS *(Psephotus haematonotus)* had their first lot of eggs destroyed, I think, by the Swainson Lorikeets, which I removed at once to a separate aviary. The hen then laid again but died in the box egg-bound with her second egg, and was only discovered owing to the cock's excitement and frantic cries he was soon consoled by the introduction of a new hen, and between them they reared two young—both hens—late in the season.

A pair of PEACH-FACED LOVEBIRDS *(Agapornis roseicollis)* now in my possession for four years have laid some hundreds of fertile eggs, but have never done more than hatch an occasional chick, which was never reared beyond a day or two - several young have been obtained by placing the eggs under Budgerigars, who hatch them out and feed the young perfectly for three weeks, after which they desert, presumably because they discover that they have been deceived and that their large offspring are not of their own species. The Lovebirds have then to be hand-reared and some become delightfully tame and intelligent in consequence. One of these hand-reared Lovebirds which we had for nearly a year was most attached to my wife and would follow her about everywhere, and was never satisfied except when sitting on her hand or shoulder—he was less fond of me, but would come to me in my wife's absence as a *pis aller*.

In cold weather this bird was never happy unless he could burrow up my sleeve inside my waistcoat, or down the neck of my wife's blouse, from which point of vantage he would occasionally peep out. Whenever he had misbehaved himself by giving too hard a nip he would say "Naughty Joey" quite distinctly.

Alas! one day he was forgotten for an hour or two in the garden, where he often spent the afternoon, and although he was searched for high and low no answering cry came when he was called, and we have never seen a trace of him since.

No doubt a wandering cat carried him off.

N.B. There must be no cats here this year.

Of four BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS *(Agapornis nigrigenis)* two have always been invisible, apparently spending their time in a nest box on eggs; innumerable eggs have been laid, but so far all have been clear, and I am not certain that I even have one true pair.

The SWAINSON'S LORIKEETS *(Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae)* above referred to came to me in November, 1916, and spent the winter in a cage indoors. Here they were the greatest source of amusement to me by reason of their very unbird-like behaviour; when in a playful mood they remind one very much of a couple of puppies romping; first they would descend to the cage bottom and roll about, one on the top of the other, biting each others' legs, wing-butts and bills—the male frequently dragging the hen about, and all in perfect good humour; then one would hang suspended head down from a perch and the other, with feet and beak, would climb up and down him and the biting process would be repeated. Even after a long bout of these frolics not a single feather of the wonderfully perfect plumage would be ruffled. The nest box again was a very favourite place for these scuffles, one of which was the cause, I think, of the breaking of two eggs laid last spring.

The birds have since then moulted completely I believe, but never at any moment has the plumage been in anything but perfect condition, so the process must be very gradual. In March I turned them out with a few other Parrakeets, and although their outward behaviour was good enough I suspect them of sampling the eggs of smaller and weaker birds; anyhow on suspicion I put them in a small aviary to themselves where they spent the spring, summer and autumn, sleeping at night in a large nest box—their only shelter, the aviary being quite open except for a wooden fence on one side.

On November 4th, when about to cage the birds for the winter, I found the hen sitting on two eggs; as their milk sop was frozen each morning I risked moving the birds indoors and did so at dead of night, moving the box with the two Lorikeets inside. While being carried in they made violent attempts to get out, but settled down quite quietly after I had attached the box to the cage which was to be their new home. Much to my disappointment both birds were off the eggs next day and made no attempt to sit--after all it was to be expected, and I felt sure they would lay again soon; in this I was not disappointed, for on December 12th the hen was sitting. On the 15th she was off and looking mopy. On inspecting the nest I found only one egg, so caught up the hen and found her egg-bound. She was forthwith well lubricated and put in a small cage close to an anthracite stove and I was more than pleased the following morning to find an egg on the cage bottom and the hen looking quite herself. I at once replaced her in her breeding cage with her mate—there was much jubilation on his part and pairing at once took place. The egg I placed in the nest box with its fellow, but the birds' equanimity had been upset and they did not sit. The egg is white and extremely globular in shape. I believe two to be the full clutch. I am hoping that they will make one more attempt and be successful this time.

The compartment of the breeding cage below that tenanted by the Swainson's contains a pair of RED-COLLARED LORIKEETS *(T. rubritorques)*. These are sitting steadily, in fact I discovered them on eggs on the same day as the Swainson's started their last attempt. I hope for the best and am prepared for the worst.

These *loriculi* appear to have more difficulty than have other Australian Parrots in accommodating themselves to the change of seasons of another hemisphere.

An exceptionally fine pair of ROSELLAS *(Platycercus eximius)*, which spent last winter in the Parrakeet aviary, soon began to make themselves unpleasant with the advance of spring and were therefore removed to a small aviary, 9ft. x 3ft. x 6ft. high. On May 5th the nest box contained three eggs, and on inspecting the box again some time later I was surprised to find *ten* eggs. The young hatched out on or about June 15th; one egg was addled and nine young were fully reared. These left the nest from July 15th onward.

In the meantime I had provided another nesting box, and on July 20th the hen was again sitting, this time on five eggs. The male parent took charge of all the young and also had to feed the sitting hen, so he had a pretty strenuous time for the first few days until the young began to be independent: of the second nest four eggs hatched out and two of the young were taken to hand-rear when about fully fledged—the remaining two were duly brought up by their parents.

This small aviary was, for a time, very suggestive of a dealer's stock cage containing as it did thirteen full-grown Rosellas. I soon parted with the young but have retained the breeding pair. I would advise all who breed birds and parrots in particular to mark their adult birds with rings when first they arrive, or they may one fine day send off a valuable breeder by mistake. I make a practice of placing a copper ring on all cock birds and a galvanised iron one on the hens. If one has two pairs of one species it is easy to ring one pair on the left leg and the other on the right. As it was, I nearly sent off my breeding hen, thinking she was a youngster and only discovered my mistake in the nick of time.

My last note is on a pair of YUCATAN BLUE AND BLACK PIES *(Cissolopha yucatanica)* kindly lent me for the season by Mr. Guy Faulkner. A fuller account of their breeding episodes will appear in the *Avicultural Magazine*.

These birds came to me in March and were turned out in mid-April. They laid four eggs in a bare wooden box in early June, and I had to provide them with a Thrush's nest. The hen did not mind my interference and sat out her full period of sixteen days, when two chicks hatched out; these were reared to the age of seventeen days without the slightest trouble, when, owing to the collapse of the nest, one chick got out of the nest and died of cold, the other was subsequently neglected by both parents, who had been most devoted up to then, and I had to take it to hand-rear as the only chance of saving its life. It was so weak, however, when I started, that it never had a real chance and died a few days later.

In August the hen went to nest again; this time I had provided a half coco-nut husk cemented into a small box, in which she laid five eggs. I was away at the time the young were due, but I believe that all the eggs hatched on this occasion. On my return I only found one dead chick some five days old, and the remains of the egg shells lying about the aviary; shortly after this the birds began to moult. They have since then been presented to the Zoological Society by their late owner and can be seen in the Small Birds' House. They are of course very rare in Aviculture and extremely handsome birds, hardly as striking as the Occipital Blue Pie, and less attractive than the Blue-winged Magpie, whose chief charm lies in its diminutiveness; still they make very charming pets, are extraordinary interesting, and I would have given much to have had another chance of breeding them successfully next season.

◆

Whydahs.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson. D.S.O.

(Continued from page 18).

For meaning of abbreviations used in this list *vide* page 186 last Vol.

HEUGLIN'S FAN-TAILED WHYDAH.

Urobrachya phoenicea. H.L. v. 413.

Synonomy.

Coliuspasser phoenicea. Heugl. 1856. *Vidua phoenicea* (Gray. 1870). *Urobrachya phoenicea* (Cab. 1882) & Cat. *Penthetria phoenicea.* (Reichenow. 1887).

Urobrachya phoenicea media. Reichenow. 1904.

U. axillaris (nec. Smith). Reichenbach. 1861.

Vidua axillaris (Heugl. 1867). *Penthetria axillaris* (Heugl. 1870). *P. (Urobrachya) axillaris* (Fisch. 1884). *Coliuspasser axillaris* (Sh. 1888).

U. traversii (nec Salvad). Flower. 1900.

References. Singv. 64. Plate. 29. fig. 228. Sh. iv. 65.

Range. N. E. & Equatorial Africa (White Nile, south to Uhehe).

This is another red-shouldered species very like *U. axillaris*, which as a cage-bird is hardly known, and of which but little is as yet on record as to its wild life. Van Someren in the *Ibis* for 1916 reports them as being common in Uganda and British East Africa, where they breed in the tall rank grass of the swamps. The nest he describes (p. 417) as being made of coarse grass lined with finer, and the eggs as greenish with brown and ash-coloured spots.

Urobrachya nigronotata. Sharpe. 1899. H.L. v. 413.

A sub-species or local race of *U. axillaris*, which, however, both Shelley and Reichenow do not consider a separate species, but to be the same as U. hildebrandti. Its habitat is Witu in British East Africa. (H.L.).

◆

TRAVERS'S FAN-TAILED WHYDAH.

Urobrachya traversii. H.L. v. 413.

Synonomy.

Urobrachya traversii. Salvad. 1888, & Cat. 226. & Sh. iv. 67.
U. phoenicea traversii. (Reich. 1904).

RANGE. N. E. Africa (Abyssinia. Shoa).

This species has the shoulder-patches more orange than scarlet, and thus is intermediate between the red-shouldered *axillaris* and *phoenicea* and the yellow-shouldered form of *bocagei.*

◆

MECHOW'S FAN-TAILED WHYDAH.

Urobrachya quanzae. H.L. v. 413.

Synonomy.

Urobrachya mechowi. Cab. 1881. & Sh. iv. 68.
U. phoenicea quanzae. Hartert. 1903.

RANGE. W. Africa (Coanza River, Angola).

This Angola race resembles the preceding in its orange shoulder-patches.

Urobrachya media. Sharpe. 1902. H.L. v. 413.

RANGE. Equatorial Africa (W. Ankole).

This race is included by Shelley in *phoenicea.* Of its habits, as is the case with so many of the other species mentioned above, I find nothing on record.

◆

BOCAGE'S FAN-TAILED WHYDAH.

Urobrachya bocagei. H.L. v. 413.

Synonomy.

I

Bocage's Widow-bird. Orange-shouldered Whydah.

II

Penthetria axillaris (nec Smith) Bocage. 1867.

Urobrachya bocagii. Sharpe. 1871. & Cat. 226 & Sh. B. Afr. *Penthetria bocagii* (Boc. 1877-81). *Coliuspasser bocagii* (Sh. 1886).

U. affinis. Cab. 1881.

U. mechowi. Cab. 1881.

Range. Angola, Benguela, Mossamedes.

References. Sh. iv. 70. & *(affinis)* Plate. 30. fig. 2. B.S.A. i. 136. Butler. i. 192.

In this species the shoulder-patch is a rich orange shaded with yellow, and in some specimens wholly yellow. Such a variety is that of the plate given by Shelley, who considers it a colour variety of *U. axillaris* caused by a life in captivity. Little or nothing is known of its wild life but it is occasionally imported as a cage-bird. Shelley writes (p. 63) that the bird he figures was one which died in the Berlin Aquarium and that "there are "two similar specimens in the British Museum, both of which "were cage-birds, one in the Zoological Gardens, London, "and the other in the possession of the well-known aviculturist, Mr. J. Abrahams."

◆

THE COMBASOUS.

These differ from the other Whydahs in their smaller size, in the absence of any red or yellow in the breeding plumage of the adult male, in their nesting sites (usually holes in roofs etc.) and in their eggs, white and not coloured as in the other genera. In their general habits, however, they resemble the rest.

One species is among the commonest of the small West

African cage-birds and has been known from the earliest days of bird-keeping, but for all that there are but few records of any of the Combasous having been bred in confinement. Like the other Whydahs they are polygamists, and I have seen it somewhere suggested that they may be parasitic also in their nesting habits, as is probably the case with the Pin-tailed Whydah. However that may be, I do not think it is so, as a rule, at any rate with *H. chalybeata*, the common Combasou of the Gambia, where I know them well.

In the Hand List the genus is divided into 9 species, but some of them can hardly have a right to even sub-specific rank, for their differences in many cases merely depend on variations (often very slight) in the colour of the gloss on the black of the adult breeding plumage, at the best a doubtful and frequently variable characteristic. Shelley distinguishes two groups, a northern and a southern, the former (*chalybeata* and *ultramarina*) having the wing and tail a much darker brown than the latter (*amauropteryx* and its neighbours).

The name " Combasou " is an old one, having been originally used by Vieillot in 1805 in his " Oiseaux Chanteurs." From his time to date it has been and is the generally used name for these birds. In Senegal and the Gambia the Joloff name for the bird (i.e. for the black cock) is " Koumba-suban," which is evidently the origin of Vieillot's name. The other common native name in the Gambia for the male is the Mandingo "Sanna Fintong," which means " Black Sam." The hens and out of colour cocks have no special native name, being merely classed with all other plainly clad small birds, as " little birds."

The generic name, *Hypochera*, is spelt either with a dipthong " æ " or a long " e." The latter would appear to be the more correct, as derived from the Greek " Chera, Chere," (a widow = *vidua*) and also the earliest.

◆

THE COMBASOU.

Hypochera chalybeata. H.L. v. 437.

Synonomy.

I

Le Combasou. VII. 1805.

Green Combasou.
Shining Weaver-bird.
*Glossy Finch. Latham. (?).
*Glossy Black Bengaly. old book name.
Ultramarine Finch, occasionally for any Combasou.
Atlas Finch, an occasional old dealers' name.

II

Fringilla chalybeata. Muller 1776. *Amadina chalybeata.* (Gray. 1870). *Hypochaera chalybeata* (Sharpe. 1871). *Hypochera chalybeata.* (Reichenow. 1904) and Sh. iv. 6.
Fringilla nitens. Gm. 1788. *Loxigilla nitens* (Lesson. 1831).
Amadina nitens (Sw. 1837). *Hypochera nitens* (Bp.1850)
Hypochaera aenea. Hartl. 1854. and Cat. 309.

References. Butler. F.F. 274. Plate. ♂ ♀. Russ. i. 198, 199. Pl. 7. Cassell. 402. Pl. p. 385. (more like *ultramarina*). Butler i. 186. Gedney. ii. 71. Sw. i. 99. Sh. iv. 6.

Range. West Africa (Senegambia).

This is the common Combasou of " commerce." The black or rather dark blue of the male is glossed with green. In the Gambia, as no doubt throughout their range, they are very common, haunting the neighbourhood of the villages in company with Firefinches and Senegal Sparrows. Their nests are usually found in holes in the grass roofs or the mud walls of the native huts, but they sometimes breed in trees, for Mr. van Someren in a recent *Ibis* (1916. p. 426) writes of a nest " in a " thick spray of the Cape lilac, about seven feet from the " ground " in which were three white eggs.

As this note refers to British East Africa the range as given above for this species must be extended, for in the note the strong greenish sheen, the special characteristic of *chalybeata* is mentioned, and therefore the possibility that the writer is referring to *ultramarina* or some other species excluded. This eastward extension of the range of Senegambian birds is common, for many of the birds found in the Gambia are absolutely identical with those from Abyssinia and other parts of East Africa, and throughout the southern Sudan, which links up the two regions, west and east.

The only British record of its breeding *in* captivity that I can find is of " one young one reared by Cordon Bleus " (Boyd) in B. N. 1914. p. 338. Abroad Russ states that it was first bred by Tittel, and that he and others have also been successful. In Gedney we have one of the usual cheerful general statements of which he is so fond, about " nesting regularly in aviaries without artificial heat."

(To be Continued).

◆

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Continued from page 290, Vol. vii, N.S.

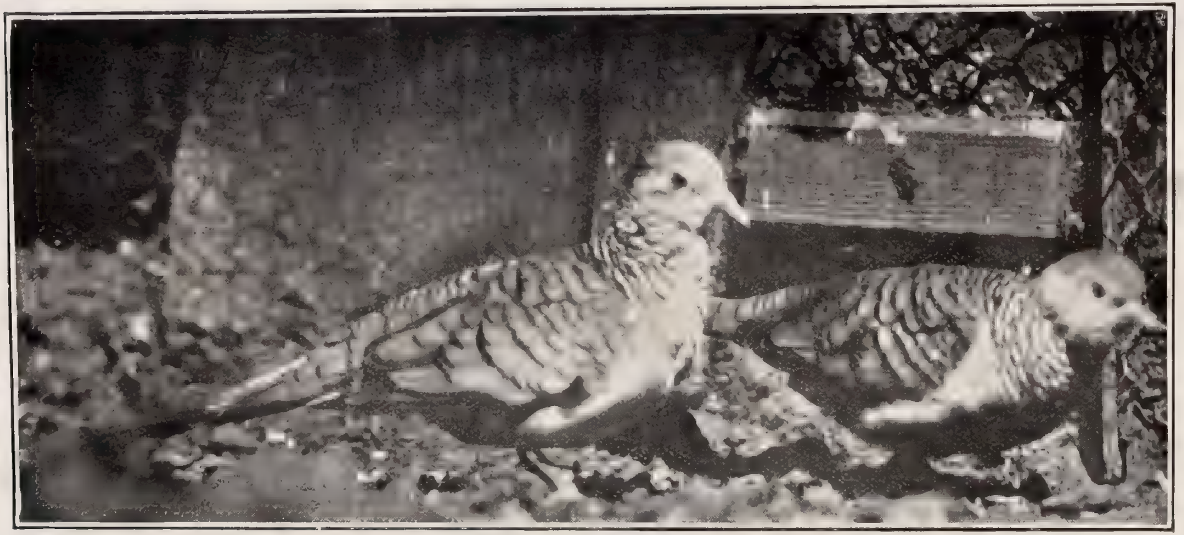
There has been a break of a full year between the last instalment and this, and, perhaps, it would have been better not to resume same under the circumstances, and I am only doing so by request.

New members might do worse than purchase the volume, and thus be able to read from the beginning, and to read the present and following instalments more understandingly.

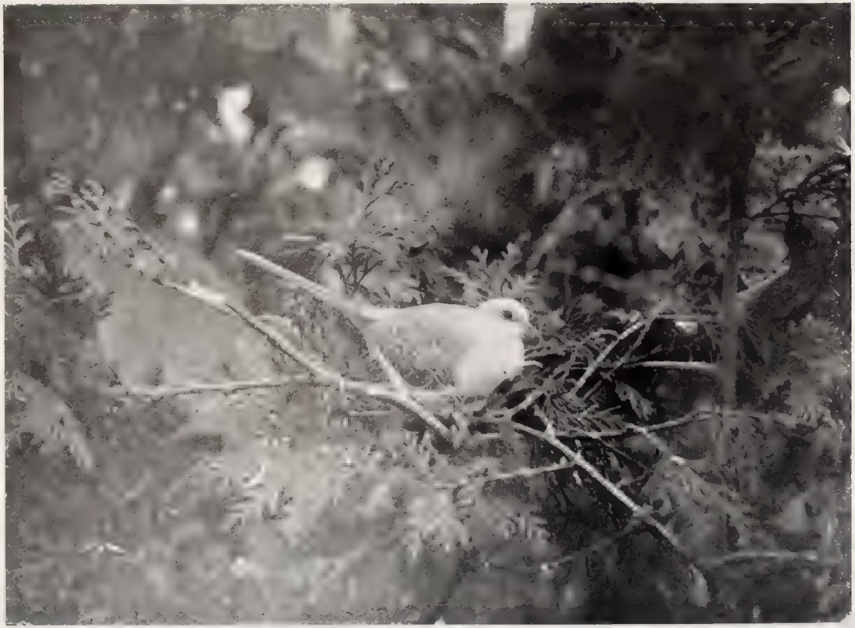
DOVES AND PIGEONS.

Bar-shouldered Dove *(Geopelia humeralis)*: A pretty but rather wild species, which does not steady down so readily as do others of this genus; neither is it so free a breeder, it is also very bad tempered towards other doves, especially to those of the same genus. I must, however, state that I am writing of but a single pair, and that these only stayed with me three years; they made no attempt whatever to reproduce their kind, for they proved to be two males.. I am not aware of any instance of young having been fully reared in this country. From my experience with the above pair I am of the opinion that it will winter successfully out of doors in any ordinary season, but if any spell of *abnormally* cold weather set in I should say it would be the better for the protection of four walls, and then not let out again till the spring. A very handsome species.

Peaceful Dove *(G. tranquilla)*: Its name certainly a misnomer, for this species is the most quarrelsome of any I



Peaceful Doves.



Diamond Dove on Nest.

have kept; fortunately this and other quarrelsome species are quite harmless with finches and other small birds, reserving their ill-humour for members of the Dove tribe. At first this species proved a shy breeder in captivity, being more ready to nest and lay than to rear young. It has been bred in this country by several aviculturists and young have been reared in my aviaries. I found it quite indifferent to the severest weather our winter inflicts upon us, and I have tested the species for a fair period of years. I should qualify the above by stating that Miss Rosie Alderson found it quiet and inoffensive—my experience, however, of its quarrelsomeness is not isolated.

ZEBRA DOVE *(G. striata)*: This greatly resembles the preceding species, but is a wee bit larger and the narrow black barring of the breast is not so decided as in *tranquilla*. I have had both quarrelsome and amiable pairs of this species, but all alike I have found more ready to nest, lay, and even hatch out young than they are to rear. Young, however, have been reared in many aviaries including my own, but I certainly did not find them a prolific species, neither did they bear extreme cold so well as *tranquilla*. It is not a favourite species with me, very dull except for spells of wild dashing about, and also very liable to abnormal lengthening of the upper mandible, some individuals needing to have it cut back regularly and fairly frequently to enable them to feed comfortably.

DIAMOND DOVE *(G. cuneata)*: This is the pick of all the small doves, a species to 'thuse over--it is fairly amiable, ready to breed, and exquisitely beautiful. With me it has been quite hardy, and never appeared to suffer from winter's cold, however severe; but they do appear unhappy during long continued wet, and keep mostly under a roof while such weather lasts. My first breeding pair nested seven times in a single season, hatching out every egg (fourteen) and fully rearing eleven young birds, all of which successfully passed their first moult in my aviary before being distributed. The young are very precocious and usually leave the nest before they can fly and I have lost several at such times from some aviary-bully before they were able to get out of the way, but such mishaps are not numerous—in one season, out of fourteen young birds which left the nest I lost three from this cause. The nests are very small and fragile, and the marvel is that it lasts out the short period it is occupied—in my aviary the same nest was never used twice.

SCALY DOVE *(Scardafella squamata)*: I have not bred this species; moreover, the one pair I have possessed only remained in my aviary fifteen months, being then passed on owing to my dove accommodation being much overstocked. They passed through one severe winter with me and they certainly did not show any discomfort, being quite fit and vigorous when it had passed. It has been bred at the London Zoo, and by one, if not more, private aviculturist. It is rather a pretty little species, and much more alert in its demeanour than are *Columbidae* generally. It is not a common species in the bird market.

CAPE DOVE *(Oena capensis)*: This is a very pretty species indeed, but is only half-hardy—there are however, exceptions to this rule, for instance an odd hen in my largest aviary has been left out this winter, and so far is in really exquisite form but she always sleeps in the shelter and does not need driving in. However, the general experience is that it is best brought indoors at the end of October and kept there till the following May. It is not a prolific breeder in captivity, and, although it has nested, no young have been reared in my aviary, but others have been more fortunate in this respect.

DWARF GROUND DOVE *(Chamaèpelia griseola)*: A minute and interesting species, first bred in captivity by Mr. W. E. Teschemaker; it has also reared young in my aviaries, but, as it is rather uncommon on the market only a comparatively few aviculturists have had the opportunity of testing it in this respect. My experience is that while it can successfully pass any ordinary winter out of doors, a really severe one would cause real discomfort, even if the bird managed to survive it. In the southern counties it could perhaps be treated as hardy, but it is not so in the north --my personal experience only covers the London district with this species.

PASSERINE DOVE *(Chamaepelia passerina)*: An interesting but shy species, spending most of its time in cover, but nevertheless fairly ready to reproduce its kind in captivity. One young bird only has been reared in my aviary. Mr. H. Willford was the first to rear young in this country. This is also safe

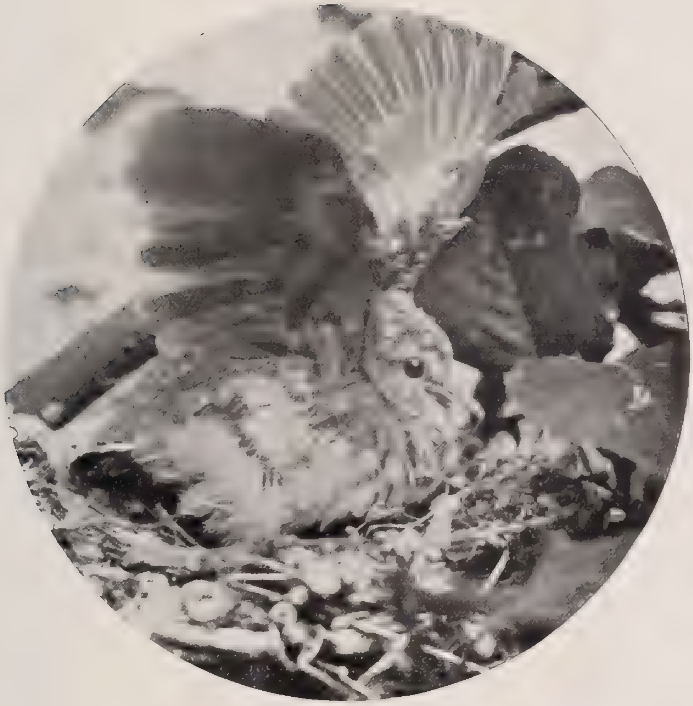


Photo W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Young Dwarf-ground Dove.

out of doors any ordinary winter, but I do not consider it should be so kept during a severe one, nevertheless it is not at all fragile, and the protection of four walls is all they require—it does not need artificial heat.

TALPACOTI DOVE *(C. talpacoti).* I have found this quietly disposed species quite hardy and I have had quite a few of them at one time and another, but have only had young fully reared in my aviary on two occasions. It is not imported in large numbers, and though one could not call it a free breeder, yet individual pairs occasionally have been quite prolific. Miss Baker had quite a number of them reared in her aviary, during two, or more, successive seasons.

PICUI DOVE *(Columbula picui)*: Another species of which one may write much that has been said concerning the preceding species—it is a desirable aviary species, rather quarrelsome with its own tribe, and fairly ready to nest and rear young. I have only had two pairs however, one of which nested and fully reared two young birds. Both the pairs (not in aviary at same period) wintered successfully out of doors, but the aviary, though the shelter was an open-fronted one, was a very sheltered one, and from the midland counties northward I consider it would be better wintered indoors, but heat would not be needed.

All the foregoing are of small size and very desirable as aviary birds, but unless the aviary is a very large one not more than two or three species should be kept together, or they are apt to interfere materially with each others' nesting arrangements. The following are all larger species—typical dove-size or larger.

GREEN-WINGED DOVE *(Chalcophaps indica).* I have had a long acquaintance with this species, but have been without a breeding pair for some years. Quite twelve years ago two young birds were fully reared in a very rough aviary, and were duly parted with as part of an exchange transaction; then, the following winter the cock died, but the hen lived on for twelve years, out of doors the whole period, and I will say at once that with me they have proved absolutely hardy. Miss R. Alderson has not found them so, but it must be remembered that

Worksop and London are very different localities. In 1916 eight young birds came into my possession, two each of which went to Mr. W. Shore Baily and Mr. H. Bright, and in the late summer one of the remaining four died; the other three duly moulted out and proved to be two cocks and one hen, one of the cocks duly mated with the hen, but no attempt at nesting was made till September, then one squab was hatched out, and this was reared till nearly fledged and suddenly forsaken. I am hoping that this next season I may have the pleasure of seeing young Green-wings in my aviary once more. I may say the three birds referred to above spent the whole of the terrible 1916-7 winter out of doors, and are still out and in exhibition form. The winter here since mid-December has been exceptionally severe, though mild weather has prevailed the last three days, but up to date (January 21st) there has been 4 inches of snow on the flight tops on four occasions, and from 10 to 23 degrees Fahr. has been registered on many occasions the Green-wings invariably roost out of doors and I repeat their condition can only be described as robust, and "spic and span."

To be continued.

Notes of Bird Life in Mesopotamia.

By Lieut. W. R. Batty.

It is interesting to note the difference between common English birds and their counterparts, in Mesopotamia. For instance the Eastern version of the Sparrow has nothing (in the cock bird at least) of the bold markings of the home bird. His head markings do not exist and his black bib is much reduced, or even changed into dark spots on the upper part of his breast.

Larks again differ chiefly by having much more prominent crests and bolder markings, their tails are generally very dark brown.

Starlings here have every feather tipped with dead white, which gives them quite a grey appearance at a distance.

Hooded Crows are a good deal larger and the grey portions of their plumage are of so pale a shade that it seems almost white.

The Mesopotamian Wagtail has a black poll, deep crescent-shaped black bib, black and white primaries and tail, and pale grey plumage.

The following is a list of birds seen in Mesopotamia:

Sparrow
Starling
Lark
Wagtail
All similar to English but with a difference.
Warblers (species unknown but numerous)
Flycatcher (similar to Spotted Flycatcher)
Shama
Oriole
Chat
species unknown.
Yellow-vented Bulbul
Martin
Wheatear
Kingfisher small Blue
,, large ,,
,, Black and White
Hooded Crow (large Black and White)
Little Owl
Indian Kite
Harrier
Doves (many species)
Green Bee-eater
Hoopoe
Grey Shrike
Magpie
Jackdaw
Rook
Raven
Kestrel
Sparrow Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Sand Grouse
Black Partridge (species of Willow Grouse I think)
Sandpiper
Heron
Wild Goose (Bean Goose?)
Mallard
Egret
White Stork
Teal
and many others suspected, etc., awaiting confirmation.

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Correspondence.

Members' Sales and Exchanges, and the Perpetuation of Species in our Aviaries.

In the course of correspondence with the Marquis of Tavistock re his birds and copy for the club Journal, the Editor deplored that so little was done by members of the F.B.C., towards breeding such species as were available so as to make us independent of outside source of supply, at any rate so far as certain species were concerned. The Editor also regretted that the various schemes of exchange which had been brought forward, mainly to prevent inbreeding, etc., had mostly failed, apparently owing to the indifference of members, for, whatever the cause, members certainly did not avail themselves of the means of the opportunities provided of introducing new blood into their breeding, though members have used our " members' sale and exchange " column fairly freely to offer surplus stock for sale or to make known their wants. The Marquis of Tavistock kindly replied as follow:—

" DEAR MR. PAGE,—Don't you think we might make a big effort, either " now, or after the war, to induce members, in the interests of humane " bird keeping and of their own pockets and for the preservation of rare " species, to take up a scheme on the lines of the enclosed?

" Club breeders to make themselves wholly or partly " responsible for maintaining for sale to members of the " F.B.C. one or more species of birds.

" Names and addresses of breeders, and names of birds " to appear free of charge in each issue of BIRD NOTES as " long as the stock continues unsold, e.g.

" Mr. A——Cockateels.
" Mr. B——Zebra-finches.
" Mrs. C——Avadavats.

" but this need not be the same as that charged by other " breeders for the same species, though it is desirable that it " should be so if it can be arranged. Prices to be communi- " cated to the Editor.

" Surplus stock, i.e. stock not claimed by members, " after being on offer as long as the breeder is able to keep it, " may be sold by the breeder at his own price to persons not " members of the club.

" Complaints with regard to stock sold by club breed- " ers to be sent to the Editor, who shall, if he see fit, mention " the complaint to the breeder, without revealing the com- " plainant's name, or in any way personally endorsing the " complaint.

" Club breeders found guilty of unfair and dishonest " practices to be deprived of their membership of the F.B.C., " no reason being given.

" Members of the F.B.C. to make it a point of " honour:—

(1) "Always to buy from Club breeders, *only*, as long as they have stock for "sale, unless a special reason exists for not doing so: e.g. when the "Club breeder has not a bird of the right age or sex for sale, or only "possesses one too nearly related to the buyer's stock.

(2) "To become Cub breeders themselves whenever possible.

(3) "Not to buy stock from a Club breeder for sale at a profit to persons not "members of the F.B.C.

"Club breeders to make it a point of honour:—

(1) "To sell nothing but sound first-class stock such as they would be "willing to buy themselves.

(2) "To make known to members buying from them, any defect or vice in "the birds they sell.

(3) "To maintain a stock available for sale to members over as long a period "of the year as possible.

(4) "To sell their stock to members at the lowest price they can afford.

(5) "Not to sell surplus stock, not required by members, to persons known "to keep birds in a careless and inhumane fashion.

"A catalogue should be issued annually to all members "of the F.B.C., giving brief, useful particulars of species of "birds kept by club breeders, the object being to inform "members, especially new ones, of the advantages and drawbacks incident to keeping the species, and of the conditions "necessary to success. Such particulars would be brief, "description of size and plumage of bird (cock sufficient), "food, ability to stand cold, readiness to breed, suitability or "otherwise for cage life, disposition towards other birds, "special diseases (if any), destructiveness to plants or woodwork (if any).

"I am quite prepared, for example, to offer myself as a "club breeder" "of Stanley Parrakeets, now, as I have a fine unrelated breeding stock and "some spare birds for disposal. If my scheme was carried out, my name "would appear in each issue of Bird Notes as long as I had stock for sale "thus:—*Stanley Parrakeets (P. icterotis)* Marquis of Tavistock, Warblington House, Havant. In the annual list or catalogue of birds bred by club "breeders there would be

"Stanley Parrakeet *(P. icterotis)*. Size about that of a Redrump or "Missel Thrush. Plumage brilliant but harmonious; head, neck and breast "crimson; upper parts marked with green and black; rump green; blue "in wings and tail; yellow cheek patches. Can be kept out of doors all "winter in a sunny aviary with an open draught-proof shelter. Food: "canary, millet, hemp, apple, groundsel, daisy, plantain plants, hawthorn "berries, etc. Breeds readily, but the cock must have flying exercise "for several months before the breeding season. Unsuited to permanent "cage life. Adult pairs will not agree with any other weaker Parrakeet of

" the same family and are likely to be spiteful with all weaker Parrakeets " when breeding. Unpaired birds much less quarrelsome. Pairs will " usually agree reasonably with birds other than Parrakeets, but might " injure nestlings. Mischievous with growing plants but do not damage " woodwork. Hens rather subject to egg-binding, and untried ones should " not be allowed to lay in chilly weather or after being kept short of exer- " cise. The species is not noisy.

" If a member were to ask for particulars of my stock for sale, I should " reply: 3 unrelated pairs of young birds, indoors, good condition, " price 30s. each bird.

" I will send you the Blue-wing article shortly,

" Yours sincerely,
" TAVISTOCK."

[The above scheme appears to be quite a workable one, but the extent of its success depends entirely upon the response of members thereto. We ask a full consideraton of its details, are open to suggestions, and ask as a first step that members having proved breeding pairs, which they may reasonably expect to breed again this season, to send in their names as breeders of such species, then at as early a date as possible a complete list (catalogue) will be published in the inset (coloured pages) of BIRD NOTES. There is no reason why a commencement should not be made at once, even in these abnormal times, then when times become normal a working scheme will already be to hand and can easily have its scope enlarged. In such cases members should give the matter immediate attention and send in their names, together with the names of their breeding pairs, at once to the Editor, so that the catalogue may appear as early as possible.—ED.]

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Birds of British Guiana.

By CHAS. DAWSON, S.J., M.A., (OXON).

(Continued from page 266, Vol. VII., New Series).

HUMMING BIRDS.

These small but wonderful creatures excel all other birds in their power of flight, and rival precious stones in the lustre of their colour patches. Some are adorned with crests, ear-tufts, frills, or pendants; and in some species the tiny feet emerge from little puffs of snow-white feathers. The wings are long, but narrow, and the tail sometimes assumes fantastic shapes. They were happily named *Trochilidae* from a Greek word denoting the swift spinning roller of a windlass; for their wings, moved by powerful muscles, whirl with the rapidity of the propeller of an aeroplane, as they dart like insects from flower to flower.

The humming of their wings may be heard for several yards and is frequently accompanied by a continual twittering. To sustain the powerful muscles of the wings, the breast-bone is enormously developed and shaped like the keel of a racing yacht. It will be noticed that the beak is abnormally long, in some species even longer than the body, and sometimes serrated. The tongue also is very long and can be protruded to a long distance; it is a double tube, forked at the end like a snake's. The bird is thus able to suck honey from flowers as it poises horizontally before them on almost invisible wings. The tail meanwhile opens and shuts like a fan, or is moved laterally from side to side. Its food consists, besides honey, of small insects which it collects from leaves and flowers.

These tiny creatures are fearless birds and will drive off intruders ten times their size, darting at them with lightning rapidity, their beaks held out stiff like a knight's lance.

The tiny nest is a fairy-like structure of felted wool and cobwebs, often tastefully adorned with lichens; it lays but two white eggs, or only one.

All these birds belong to the New World, their nearest approach in beauty and habits being the Sun-Birds of India and the East; but these latter are normal in their flight and must creep about the flowers in pursuit of their food. There are in all a hundred and seventeen genera, including some five hundred and seventy species. The females are generally much inferior in colouring to the males, and lack their feathered adornments.

HUMMING BIRDS.—(Colonial). *Trochilidae.*

Blue-fronted Lance-Bill	*Hemistephania johannae.*
White-tailed Barbthroat (mourner)	*Threnetes leucurus.*
*Bronze-green Hermit	,, *antoniae.*
Rugged Brown Humming Bird	*Glaucis hirsuta.*
*†Guiana Radiant Humming Bird	*Phaethornis guianae.*
Eye-browed Humming Bird	,, *superciliosus.*
†Majestic Radiant	,, *augusti.*
Hermit Humming Bird	,, *bourcieri.*
*Rupuruni Radiant	,, *rupuruni.*
* ,,	,, *longuemareus.*
*Bishop ,,	,, *episcopus.*

Sabre-wing Humming Bird	*Campylopterus largipennis.*
*†Reddish Humming Bird	,, *hyperythrus.*
Jacobin (or white-naped) Humming Bird (honey-eater)	*Forisuga mellivora.*
Emerald	*Agyrtria whitelyi.*
†White-vented Pilgrim (beggar)	.. *leucogaster.*
Ultra-green Pilgrim	,, *viridissima.*
*†Spotted-tailed ,,	.. *maculicauda.*
*Bright-tailed ,,	.. *nitidicauda.*
†Copper-tailed Dainty	*Saucerottea cupreicauda.*
*Green-vented Wood-beauty	*Hylocharis viridiventris.*
Red-throated Sapphire	,, *sappirina.*
Blue-chinned Sapphire	*Chlorestes coeruleus.*
*†Forked-tailed golden dwarf (Mt. Roraima)	*Chlorostilbon subfurcatus.*
†Festive Fork-tail Wood-Nymph	*Thalurania furcata.*
†Waterton's Humming Bird	.. *watertoni.*
*†Ear-tufted Humming Bird (Mt. Roraima) Shade bearer	*Petasophora germana.*
Dolphin Ear-tufted Humming Bird	,, *delphinae.*
Fiery-tailed Avocet	*Avocethela recurvirostris.*
†Violet-tailed Torch Humming Bird	*Lampornis violicauda.*
Green-throated Torch Humming Bird	,, *gramineus.*
†Gold-shining Mosquito Humming Bird	*Chrysolampis mosquitus.*
†Emerald Teresa Greentail	*Psilomycter theresiae.*
†Graceful Wonder	*Polytmus thaumantias.*
King Topaz	*Topaza pella.*
†Yellow-breasted golden-glory	*Heliodoxa xanthogenys.*
Golden Long-ear	*Heliothrix aurita.*
Tuft-crested Coquette	*Lophornis ornatus.*
†Rocket-tailed Quoit	*Discura longicauda.*

SWIFTS.

The resemblance of Swifts to Swallows is only superficial. Anatomically, the difference is fundamental, and Swifts have been finally placed in the same sub-order as Humming Birds. They are emphatically birds of the air, performing all their functions on the wing and never resting except to roost. Like Humming Birds they have enormous keels bearing the powerful muscles that sustain them in their continual flight. Their feet, unlike all other birds, except a few Night-jars are generally *pamprodactylous*, that is, all four toes are in front, and in some examples even the toes are feathered. Their coloration is generally sombre, blacks and browns with sometimes white chins, breasts, or rumps, and markings of rufous, being the prevailing tints. They range all over the world except in New Zealand and some other islands, and in snow-bound latitudes. Their tails are generally forked; and in flight they resemble a bent bow. Their note is a shrill scream uttered continuously. The *Collocalia* make their nests of secretions of their salivary glands and from them the Chinese concoct excellent soup! None of these species, however, belong to the New World. Others make their nests saucer-shape, of twigs, straw, feathers, etc., which they catch in the air as they fly, binding the material together with saliva, and selecting such sites as the face of a cliff, the open branch of a tree, palm leaves, ect. The *Panyptila* makes a huge nest entirely composed of seeds, glued together with saliva. The eggs are dull white like those of Humming Birds. They are in all nine genera and a hundred species, of which twenty-five belong to the New World.

SWIFTS—(Colonial). *Cypselidae.*

*†The Belted Swift		*Chaetura zonaris.*	
*† ,, White-banded Swift		,,	*albicincta.*
*† ,, Spiny-tailed ,,		,,	*spinicauda.*
*† ,, Grey ,,	(?)	,,	*poliura.*
*† ,, Ash-vented ,,		,,	*cinereiventris.*
*† ,, Grey-breasted ,,		,,	*guianensis.*
† ,, Ruddy ,,	(?)	*Cypseloides rutilus.*	
*† ,, Black ,,		,,	*niger.*
,, Smoky ,,		,,	*fumigatus.*
,, Palm Swift (Scaly)		*Claudia squamata.*	
,, Cayenne Swift (Downy)		*Panyptila cayennensis.*	

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS.

These birds belong to the Order *Passeriformes* and are placed next the Swifts in this collection for the sake of comparison. Like Swifts they are cosmopolitan and their habits are generally the same, feeding on insects which they catch with open mouth. They will alight on the bare branches of trees and are sometimes seen on the ground collecting mud to build their nests which may be cup-shaped or like a retort with a tube for entrance. They often form colonies of nests and hunt in companies. In colour they resemble Swifts: blue blacks, with puff, and under-parts generally white; there may be chestnut or reddish markings. They twitter or warble, both on the wing and at rest. The eggs, from four to seven, are white in Martins, and white with red spots or purple markings in Swallows. Martins are generally smaller than Swallows and the colouring is not so bright. Many of them are white-rumped. Sand Martins build their nests on the face of cliffs, digging holes in the soft clay or sand; the Purple Martin of N. America, in holes of trees. There are in all thirteen genera, including more than a hundred and thirteen species, of which twenty-six belong to the New World.

SWALLOWS & MARTINS.—(Colonial) *Hirundinidae.*

White-vented Swallow (Quick-flyer)	*Tachycineta albiventris.*
Chimney Swallow (red-vented)	*Hirundo erythrogaster.*
Chalybeate Swallow (iron-blue)	*Progne chalybea.*
Brown Swallow	,, *tapera.*
†Elegant-banded Swallow	*Atticora fasciata.*
Ash-throated ,,	,, *melanoleuca.*
*†Dark-blue bright ,,	,, *cyanoleuca.*
†Capped ,,	,, *pileata.*
†Forked ,,	,, *fucata.*
Red-throated (scraper-winged)	*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis.*
*	,, *uropygialis.*

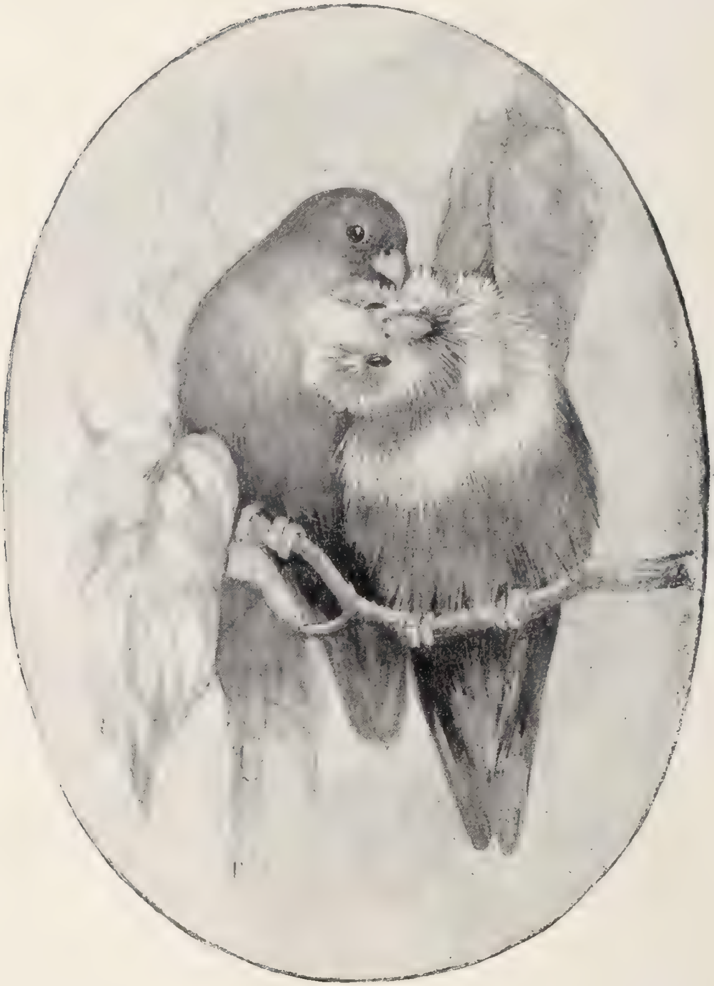
(To be continued).

Blue Budgerigars.

From the "Yorkshire Evening Post," Feb. 1, 1918.

A RARE BIRD FOR LEEDS MUSEUM.

Mr. John W. Marsden, of Harrogate, the son of a former Mayor of Leeds, has presented to the Leeds Philosophical Hall a stuffed specimen of the rare tribe of birds known as the Blue Budgerigar, which is a variant of the common green parrakeet of Australia. Mr. Marsden has succeeded after many years in breeding the blue variety, and the one which he has presented to the Philosophical Hall recently died in his aviary. There are not more than a dozen specimens in the country.



AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

Madagascar Lovebirds.

After a miniature by Mrs. A. M. Cook, F.Z.S., exhibited in the Royal Academy, 1916.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Madagascar Lovebirds.

BY MRS. A. M. COOK, F.Z.S.

I have heard Madagascar Lovebirds called "bad-tempered little brutes;" with my pair this description applied mostly to the hen, for the cock had little time to be bad-tempered or anything else with his constant attendance on his dame. As a reward for his devotion, he often received a gentle scratching of his poll first on one side and then on the other *(vide plate)*. This was pretty enough to watch, and in such moments they seemed to be living up to their name. For the rest he was humbly at her beck and call, and though they did not actually quarrel and often sat together very lovingly absorbed in themselves, there was much yet wanting to set them up as a model of congugal felicity.

She was petulant, exacting, and impatient with him as a spoiled child, and, like many spoiled people, sometimes spiteful.

His daily duty seemed to be to answer his lady's two sharp notes, to fetch seed for her and be hurried up over it, too, by her querulous calls. Then they would sit quaintly feeding each other backwards and forwards. Whatever pleasure he may have found in the performance must have been modified by the fear that his toes might be well nipped by his uncertain spouse.

Nor did the night bring him relief from her exactions, for her two sharp notes were often heard, followed by the scrambling of the husband down the wires to the seed-box like any old shuffler in his slippers at the bidding of a testy wife, then the sound of feeding and a little song in the darkness.

Then, too, she was unsociable. I introduced a pair of Budgerigars into their very large cage. These innocents were for taking things as they found them, enjoying life in their own way, living and letting live, but my Lady Lovebird, however largely she relied upon her Lord for food, found sufficient energy to flounce the intruders from the seed box, and make life an unhappy and difficult business for them.

Personally, I was treated with a superior indifference, never the slightest approach to friendliness and finally made myself her life-long enemy by helping her over a serious " egg-bound " crisis. Other people she continued to ignore, but for me she seemed to have a positive hatred, which she showed by retreating to the other end of the cage and scolding loudly whenever I approached.

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By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Agapornis cana is quite an old pal of mine; off and on I have kept the species quite a period of years, though they have now been absent from my aviaries for some five or six years.

My first experience with them was not a very happy one, but it was at a period when I was as " green " concerning foreign birds, as the plumage of the species I am writing about. On arriving home with them they were turned into a " double-breeder " cage, where they seemed quite happy and contented, but dashed about wildly whenever the cage was cleaned and food supplies were put in, but, nevertheless, they did well, kept fit and in good plumage in spite of their wildness. I made them a nice large cage (they were kept indoors), about 2½ feet square by 4 feet high, and felt very pleased with myself when all was complete. I then lifted down their cage, opened the door, and so ran them into their new home; they appeared terribly scared and dashed about wildly, so I hastily closed the door and left them to settle down. In about an hour's time I went down to see how they liked their new quarters. Alas! for my hopes, both lay dead upon the bottom of the cage, excitement followed by cerebral hemorrhage! Thus ended the tragedy of my acquaintance with the species for several years.

The time came when I started keeping birds in outdoor aviaries, and again I visited the local dealer and returned home with pairs of Budgerigars, Red-headed, and Madagascar Lovebirds—profiting by my previous experience I carried the travelling cages into the aviary, placed them on the ground with the wire fronts a few inches away from the back of the aviary, opened the doors and left them. A little later I went down to the aviary and found all three pairs hopping (jumping) and climbing about the branches. This yarn only concerns *A. cana* and I shall keep to my subject. This pair lived with me five years, and did not interfere with the other occupants unless their preserves were poached upon. They did nothing else, however, save look pretty, never even chose a nest receptacle, and when they died I was again without the species for a year or so.

Later two more pairs (costing 3s. 6d. per pair) were put into the aviary, and though both pairs chose nest-boxes, and carried into them a huge amount of rubbish, I never found any eggs, then one of the hens died and the cock mated up with an odd Budgerigar, and one young hybrid was hatched out, and lived to leave the nest; the next day it unfortunately got into the bath (a large shallow vessel only containing an inch depth of water) and was drowned. A little later (late autumn) a cock and two hens came into my possession leaving me with three pairs - however, two deaths occurred during the winter and the following spring both pairs went to nest, and one of them successfully reared three strong young birds, later in the season a second brood of four left the nest, all successfully passing the moult, and on one or two occasions since a few young have been reared. The following points may be of interest:

They cut up bark and leaves into strips, tucked them between the feathers of their wings and lower back, and flew to the nest—many pieces were dropped on the way to the nest box, but in the course of a week quite a large amount of such rubbish was so carried and arranged round the nest receptacle; the interior of same being completely lined with bark, leaves and feathers.

The hen alone incubates, the cock fed her through the hole in the nest-box. She comes off for an airing of about ten minutes (does not feed), possibly daily, certainly two or three times a week, and usually after a mild fly sits beside the cock just outside the nest and is fed by him.

I cannot give the incubation period with any exactness, and I do not care to guess, but, from the time when they ceased to carry nesting material to the first day I heard the faint hissing noise of young in the nest was twenty-five days, and I must leave the matter there—they are very secretive and it is almost impossible to tell when the first egg is laid, when incubation begins, or exactly when the young are hatched.

The young are fed by regurgitation, similar to Budgerigars. I was able to pick out the cocks in the nestling plumage, as their heads were a mixture of greyish-green and green—they donned the fully mature plumage at the first moult.

The plumage of these handsome but well-known birds does not call for description, but for the benefit of new beginners I may briefly say that the hen is all green, and the male differs in having the head and breast silvery-grey.

It is a native of Madagascar, but has been introduced into other neighbouring islands, and is very common and numerous.

Mr. J. Sibree in " A Naturalist in Madagascar," writes of them as follows:

> " Until taking this journey I had not seen in any number the pretty little " parrakeet of which Madagascar possesses a peculiar species *(Psittacula " madagascariensis)*. But we noticed a large flock of these birds one day, and " their light green plumage, with whitish breasts and greyish-white heads, " render them rather conspicuous. They go in large flocks, often as many " as a hundred together, and sometimes do considerable damage to the " rice crops. The two sexes of this parrakeet show great affection for each ' other, the pair sitting close together on their perch, from which habit " they are often called love-birds."

I will only add in conclusion that this species makes a pleasing addition to the small parrakeet aviary, and that my pairs have always been associated with Budgerigars and Passerine Paroquets. There was no serious quarrelling, occasionally a little " sparring " occurred, but a tragedy from this cause never happened in my aviary.

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For a good many years I have been noting down records of the different species of birds which have been bred in captivity, taking as my starting point the list given in Russ' great work on "Cage-Birds" -Then in 1914 appeared Mr. Page's "Species which have reared young etc," which at once supplied a much larger volume of material and a record right up to the date of publication. In this comprehensive work the writer gives two lists, (1) "Species reared in Great Britain;" (2) "Hybrids reared in Great Britain" and an Appendix containing lists of species and hybrids reared abroad (i and ii), and (iii) canary crosses. These I have taken as my basis here and on them endeavoured to build up a record as complete as possible to date, (the end of 1916), and at the same time to supply what was necessarily missing in them, namely, references to the events recorded which could be verified or the reverse.

Whenever I have been able, the references I give are to the original account, but as in many cases such are unknown to me, I have had to content myself with the next best, a quotation from some book or paper referring to the event in question. Where I could, too, I give the reference to the first success, but a record of these, as such, has not been my real object, for this is, as indicated by the title, to make a record of the birds which have reproduced themselves in captivity at some time or other without any necessary reference to the first occasion or first breeder, though these particulars are of interest and are inserted where known to the writer.

The plan of the record is as follows:

First comes the English name, (the one in most general use), and then the Latin one, that used in the British Museum Hand List. The first entry of the name is in most cases the letters "WTP," which denote that the record appears in Mr. Page's book. Next comes a reference to the breeding of the species in Great Britain. This is succeeded by the foreign record, in most cases from Russ, but in these I cannot claim even the attempt at completeness aimed at in the British records. The second part of each head deals with the hybrids on the same lines. When the species under consideration is the male parent, the reference is given, but the opposite case is also for easy reference entered under each head, the name of the female parent coming first preceded by the sign " ×," and followed by the male parent's name in brackets. The record proper will be found under this last name.

In too many cases it will be seen that the desired particulars in the references are lacking, but in such the record stands vouched by the fact of its inclusion in Mr. Page's list or elsewhere, as indicated by the abbreviations, WTP, WTP. C., Russ etc., as the case may be.

A certain number (few I hope) of extremely doubtful records will be found included, e.g. that of the Lyre-bird × Fowl cross, but my object has been to give as complete a list as I could of all records and let them stand on their own merits. There the records are. Let their relative values be a question for others, not forgetting " that there are more things in heaven and earth etc." It should be remembered too, that some of the older writers were delightfully vague and euphemistic (or perhaps I should say optimistic) on this matter of breeding. Gedney's frequent cheerful remarks (without any confirmatory details) that such and such a bird has been bred or breeds freely may be instanced. A few, too, of the Hybrid records will be found to refer to wild-bred specimens, I expect.

I must note that one or two cases of incomplete success are included, but these are distinguished by inclusion in square brackets.

◆

EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS USED.

W.T.P. *Species which have reared young and Hybrids which have been bred in captivity in Great Britain.* Wesley T. Page. 1914.
W.T.P. C. Non-British records given in the appendices to the above.
A.M. *Avicultural Magazine.* 1895—.
A.S. *Avicultural Society.*
* B.N. Bird Notes. 1903—

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* The Title Page of Vol. 1 of Bird Notes is dated 1903, but it should have read 1901—3, as its contents cover issues for that period.—Ed.

A.G.B. or Butler. Dr. A. G. Butler. When followed by numerals, this author's *Foreign Birds for Cage and Aviary.* (1906. circa).

Russ or R. Dr. Karl Russ. *Die Fremdlandischen Stubenvogel* (4 vols).

Vol. I. Seed-eaters. 1870.
,, II. Soft-bills. 1899.
,, III. Parrots. 1881.
,, IV. Handbook. 1888.

Russ' list of birds bred in confinement commences on p.877 of vol.iv. In the more recent volume (iii) will be found a few more records of later successes among the birds dealt with there.

Vale. *Mules and Hybrids*: by W. H. Vale. 189—(2nd edition, 1895).

Fillmer. *Waxbills, Grassfinches and Mannikins.* 1897. By H. R. Fillmer.

Gedney. *Foreign Cage Birds.* C. W. Gedney. 1879.

Zoo. The Zoo Reports, mostly those of recent years.

Up to 1909 the breeding records in these are subject to some doubt, as no distinction was made in them between complete and incomplete success. In the Reports for 1903 and 1904, the record is headed, " List of birds bred in............"; in those for 1905—1909., " List of birds hatched "; in that for 1910, " ....hatched and reared (those that lived but a few days after hatching not included)". For 1911 those which did not reach maturity are differentiated by an asterisk. In the 1912 and 1913 lists it is noted that all which appear therein were successfully reared, unless it is otherwise stated. Since the commencement of the war these records have been omitted from the Reports.

† = Teste, on the authority of . . . .

Any other abbreviations used are, I think, self-explanatory.

I hope one day to issue this record in more permanent form, but before it is fit for that there is much to be done in the way of correction, amplification and improvement of the references. May I hope that readers of *Bird Notes* will help toward this end, and, as each month's instalment appears note the gaps to be filled, the errors to be corrected, etc., and send their corrections to *Bird Notes*, so that the written record of the correction, addition, etc., may remain to be later incorporated in a future and as nearly as possible perfected list. First-hand references to each event are what are wanted, to the first occasion when possible, but failing that to *some* account of the successful rearing of the species or cross in question.

I trust too the promise made in the Preface to Mr. Page's book will be kept and an annual list of new breeding successes for each year, (with references) will be a regular year-end feature of the Magazine. Before getting on to the List itself, I cannot do better than quote again from Mr. Page's preface: "Many records are somewhat obscure and extremely difficult to verify, and while one or two not entitled to a place here may have crept in, or others been left out, every care has been taken to make the list as comprehensive and correct as possible."

These words are exactly applicable here. Assistance from others is required before the ideal record or even an attempt at an ideal can be obtained. The following is my effort towards this end.

◆

1.—GREENFINCH. *Ligurinus chloris.* **W.T.P.**

Fairly frequently bred. For an account, see A.M. i. 124.

Hybrids.

GREENFINCH × JAPANESE GREENFINCH. W.T.P.
Vale. " Hybrids fertile " †Vale.
,, × CHAFFINCH. W.T.P.
,, × BULLFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × SIKHIM SISKIN
1st Shore Baily. 1914. See B.N., 1914, 216, 243.
,, × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × MEXICAN ROSEFINCH.
1st Wade. 1914. See B.N. January inset, 1915. " Ruddy Finch."
× Greenfinch (Chinese Greenfinch).
× Greenfinch (Chaffinch).

◆

2.—CHINESE GREENFINCH. *L. sinicus.*

1st. Shore Baily. 1915. See B.N. 1915. 261, 334.

Hybrids.

CHINESE GREENFINCH × GREENFINCH. W.T.P. *
,, ,, × GOLDFINCH.
Zoo; fertile hybrids which crossed again with the European Greenfinch. †A.G.B. i. 138.
CHINESE GREENFINCH—GOLDFINCH HYBRID × GREENFINCH.
See above.

* The actual entry in Page's list is:—" Greenfinch, Siberian × Greenfinch *(L. sinicus × L. chloris)* " " Siberian " is obviously a slip.—E.H.

◆

3.—JAPANESE GREENFINCH. *L. kawarhiba.* Hybrids.

× Japanese Greenfinch (Greenfinch).
× Japanese Greenfinch (Goldfinch).

◆

4.—BLACK-TAILED HAWFINCH. *Eophona melanura.*

Partial success only has been recorded in the United Kingdom
(1) Fillmer, 1894. "One young partly reared." †A.G.B. i. 138.
(2) For an account of a similar experience see B.N. 1915. 342.
Abroad: Germany; 1st breeder, Hartwig †Russ.

◆

5.—HAWFINCH. *Coccothraustes coccothraustes.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1911. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (3) iii. 28.

◆

6.—YELLOW-BELLIED GROSBEAK. *Pheuticus chrysogaster.*
1st Brook. 1916. See A.M. 1917. 28

◆

7.—ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. *Zamelodia ludoviciana.* **W.T.P.**

1st Astley. 1911. A.S. Medal. See A.M. 1911. 333, 370;
Abroad: Germany. 1st breeder, Russ †Russ. 1912. 40.

◆

8.—BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK. *Z. melanocephala.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker. 1912. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1912. 328.

◆

9.—BLUE GROSBEAK. *Cyanocompsa cyanea.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker. 1909. See B.N. 1909. 228.
Abroad: 1st Russ †Russ.

◆

10.—WHITE-THROATED FINCH. *Sporophila albigularis.* **W.T.P.**
Bred by Farrar, 1905. †A.G.B. i. 144.
Abroad: 1st Franken †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

WHITE-THROATED FINCH × GREY FINCH.
1st Suggitt. 1914. See B.N. 1915. 95.

◆

11.—GREY FINCH. *S. grisea.* **W.T.P.**
1st Page. 1912. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1912. 338.
Abroad: 1st Russ †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

× Grey Finch (White-throated Finch).

12.—EULER'S FINCH. *S. superciliaris.*
Abroad: 1st Russ †Russ.

13.—BLACK-HEADED SEED-FINCH. *S. melanocephala.*
Abroad: 1st Russ †Russ.

14.—GUTTURAL FINCH. *S. gutturalis.* **W.T.P.**
1st Page 1912. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1912. 338.

15.—BLACK SEED-FINCH. *Melopyrrha nigra.*
1st Shore Baily. 1915. See B.N. 1915. 219.

16.—OLIVE CUBA FINCH. *Euethia olivacea.* **W.T.P.**
"According to Mr. L. W. Hawkins (A.M. (i) vii. 30) was first bred in Scotland" (A.G.B. i. 150). Also bred by Mr. Seth Smith, (A.G.B.) and elsewhere, I believe (E.H.).
Abroad. 1st Frenzel †Russ.
HYBRIDS.
× Olive Cuba Finch (African Silverbill). *Ploceidae.*

17.—LITTLE FINCH. *E. pusilla.*
1st Phillipps. 1900. See A.M. vi. pp. 191. *et seq.*

18.—CUBA FINCH. *E. canora.* **W.T.P.**
1st Hawkins. 1900. A.S. Medal. See A.M. vii. 29.
Abroad: 1st Russ †Russ. "Easily bred" (Russ).

19.—DUSKY FINCH. *E. bicolor.*
1st Willford. 1910. See B.N. 1910. 231.

20.—JACARINI FINCH. *Volatinia jacarini.* **W.T.P.**
1st Suggitt. 1910. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1910. 363.
Abroad: 1st Hagenbeck †Russ.

To be continued.

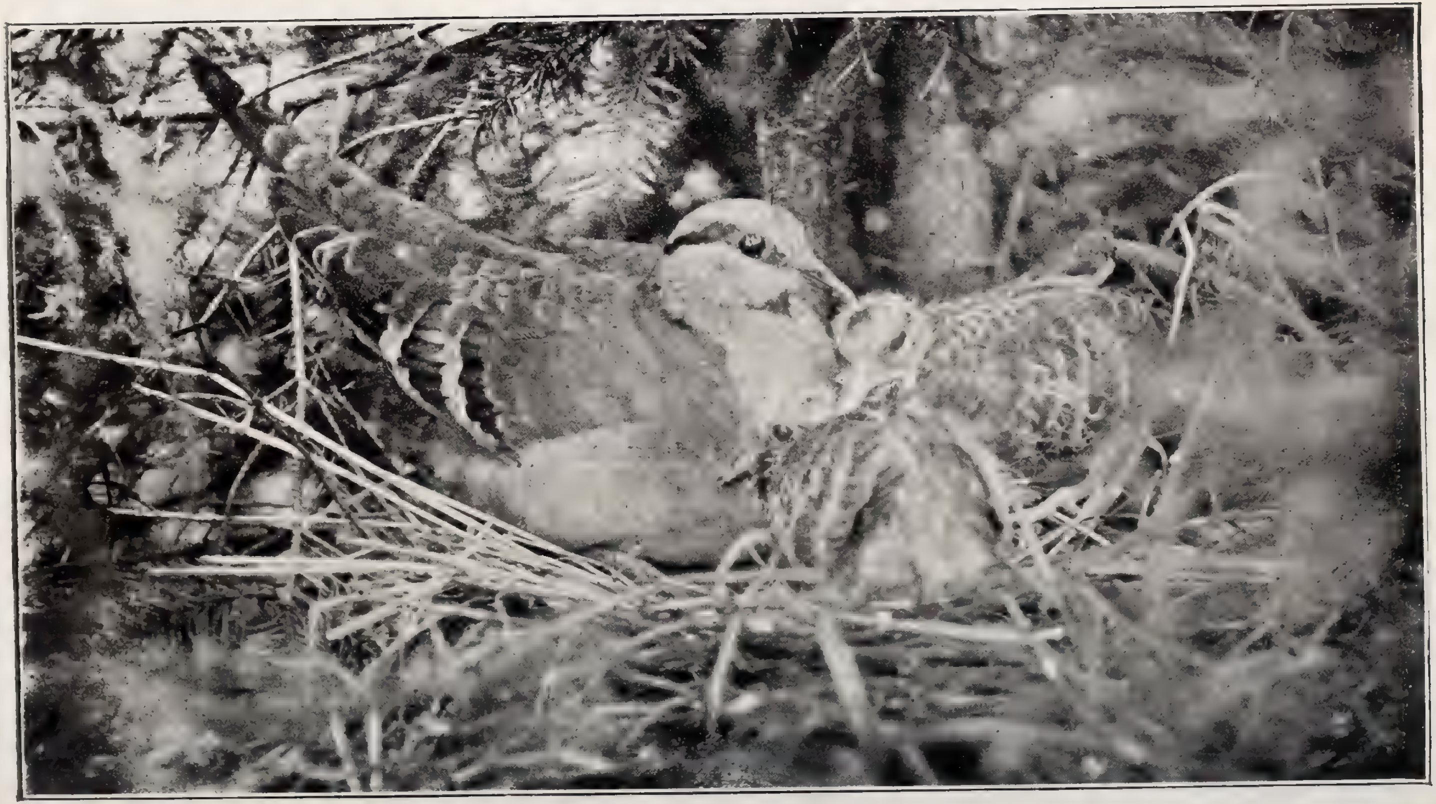


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Bronze-winged Dove and Young.

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Continued from page 44.

Bronze-necked Dove *(Zenaida auriculata)*. A handsome South American species, which is somewhat similar in appearance to the Aurita Dove *(Z. aurita)*, but on a close inspection differs materially in certain plumatic markings. The principal body colouration is brownish-olive, whitish merging into white at ventral region; head vinous, crown grey, with a black spot behind each eye and a similar black spot below the ear coverts; sides of neck glistening violet, metallic brassy in certain lights.

In 1898 I received two young birds of this species, which passed a fairly hard winter out of doors without apparent discomfort, but on assuming adult plumage proved to be two males and became so agressive towards the other doves in the aviary, that being unable to procure hens I parted with them, really having too many species of doves for my mixed collection and accommodation. However, I opine that a true pair would not have proved so troublesome, and I also think had there been any odd hens of a near species they would have mated and settled down. As it was, their aggressiveness towards the males of the other mated species prevented any chance of successful breeding, so I reluctantly had to let these handsome birds go, for lack of accommodation to house them separately, till able to find them mates.

Bronze-winged Dove *(Phaps chalcoptera)*. This very fine dove is a largish species, being some 15 inches in length, i.e. from tip of beak to end of tail (measurements are taken from skins and often are a little in excess of the living bird, owing to stretching during the process of preservation), it is also stoutly built; nevertheless there is nothing clumsy about it either in form or movement.

The body colouring is a mottled arrangement of ruddy brown; forehead rich buff; crown olive; facial streaks purple above the eye and white below; sides of neck slate grey; breast soft purple; wings very beautiful, having four rows of glittering metallic feathers, varying from greenish gold, fiery copper, to rich violet, according to the play of light.

It ranges over Australia and Tasmania and favours sterile plains, feeding almost exclusively on grass seeds; it nests in the holes of trees at a low elevation, or on the horizontal branch of a tree, and often on the ground. Two white eggs form the clutch.

It is very hardy and also a free breeder in captivity, and is very amiable with other species of doves as a rule -frequent nesting notes have appeared in our pages, and there is no need for me to enlarge thereupon. It has bred several times in my aviaries.

HALF-COLLARED TURTLE DOVE *(Turtur semitorquatus)*. This is an African species about 12 inches long, strongly built but of fine form.

General body colour rich vinous, pinkish on the breast; forehead whitish-grey. A black collar edged with grey above and below passes round the hinder part of the neck.

These are very variable in demeanour in captivity, some pairs being very bold and somewhat pugnacious; others very timid and shrink from the other occupants of the aviary however small, but will turn and fight stoutly if " cornered." As a rule all the squabs hatched out are fully reared. I have found it quite hardy. Its food in captivity is small grain and seed.

BARBARY TURTLE DOVE *(T. risorius)*. This commonly kept and well known species does not call for comment. Its hardiness and readiness to breed are well known, and I will only add that I have found them useful as foster parents to hatch out and rear the young of the rarer species of doves and I have, except in the very ancient past, only kept them for that purpose.

SENEGAL TURTLE DOVE *(T. senegalensis)*. This dove has a distinctly pleasing appearance, and is quite as easy to domesticate about one's garden and grounds as the preceding species. During the nesting season it is aggressive, but at other times, if let alone, it is not quarrelsome. It is a free breeder, but like many other species one may possess several pairs before securing what may be properly called, a " breeding pair." I have found it quite hardy.

EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE *(T. communis)*. This pleasing species will be well known to my readers as a summer visitor to the British Isles—it is very similar in its habits, etc., to *T. risorius*, but is the better for being taken indoors during the winter months, though an unheated room is all the protection it needs. It nests annually in the garden next door to mine in a huge pear tree, but though my garden supplies exactly similar accommodation I am unable to trace its ever having nested therein. On one occasion young have been reared in my aviary. It is given to dashing about rather wildly in captivity and, unless the aviary is a large one, is rather disturbing to the other inmates, but my pair were not pugnacious, even to other doves, unless attacked, when it was well able to " hold its own."

VINACEOUS TURTLE DOVE *(T. vinaceus)*. A very pleasing species, which, however, did not breed with me, though I once had a true pair, but there were too many species of doves at that time in quite a moderate-sized aviary, and the Vinaceous made no attempt to nest.

It is a native of Tropical N. Africa.

Its popular name aptly describes its principal colouration—the general vinaceous hue is washed with pinkish on the head and neck, the back and wings are browner and the latter variegated to some extent with black; there is a broad black collar on the back of the neck, narrowly edged with whitish-buff above; the greater part of the lower plumage is white.

It has bred freely at the London Zoo and is a good species for a mixed aviary, but it is very seldom imported and I had no opportunity of replacing my pair when an unfortunate accident gave them their freedom. They flew right away!

RED GROUND OR PARTRIDGE DOVE *(Geotrygon montana)* A pretty species, which spends nearly its whole time upon the ground, though with me it has always nested at as high an elevation as the aviary permitted. It is a hardy species, but in consequence of its spending most of its time upon the ground, it usually loses several toes during a severe winter from frost-bite, but this does not, according to my experience, interfere at all with its productiveness. Two young were reared in my aviary last season and young have been reared several times in previous years. Full details have been given in BIRD NOTES by Mr. R. Suggitt and others, so that I need not recapitulate them here.

They are quite inoffensive in a mixed aviary.

NECKLACE DOVE *(T. tigrinus).* This species is found in Burma, Malay Peninsula and adjacent islands and the Moluccas.

I have not succeeded in breeding this species, and my experience has been confined to a single pair and a single season.

Dr. A. G. Butler has bred this species, and a pair in Miss R. Alderson's aviary were very prolific. Both Miss Alderson and Mr. W. Shore Baily have reared very beautiful hybrids between this species and the Senegal *(T. senegalensis).*

It is quite hardy, but must not be allowed to nest during the winter months, or egg-binding usually results.

JAMAICAN PEA DOVE *(Zenaida amabilis).* Almost a replica of *Z. aurita*, and an equally pleasing species, is very ready to nest, and a good portion of the squabs hatched out are usually reared without trouble. With me it proved quite hardy and inoffensive. Our member Dr. Thwaites imported a few some years ago and kindly presented me with a pair. He succeeded in breeding several broods, an account of which was published in this Journal. My pair also bred, as indicated above. I have only possessed the one pair; an accident accounted for the hen, and as I had no Aurita hen at the time and another Pea hen being unprocurable, I parted with the odd male—they are very seldom imported.

PLUMED GROUND DOVE *(Lophophaps leucogaster).* I have had several pairs but they never got as far as eggs with me. Lord Poltimore and, I think, Mr. H. E. Bright have successfully bred them, but success with this species is not common. I found

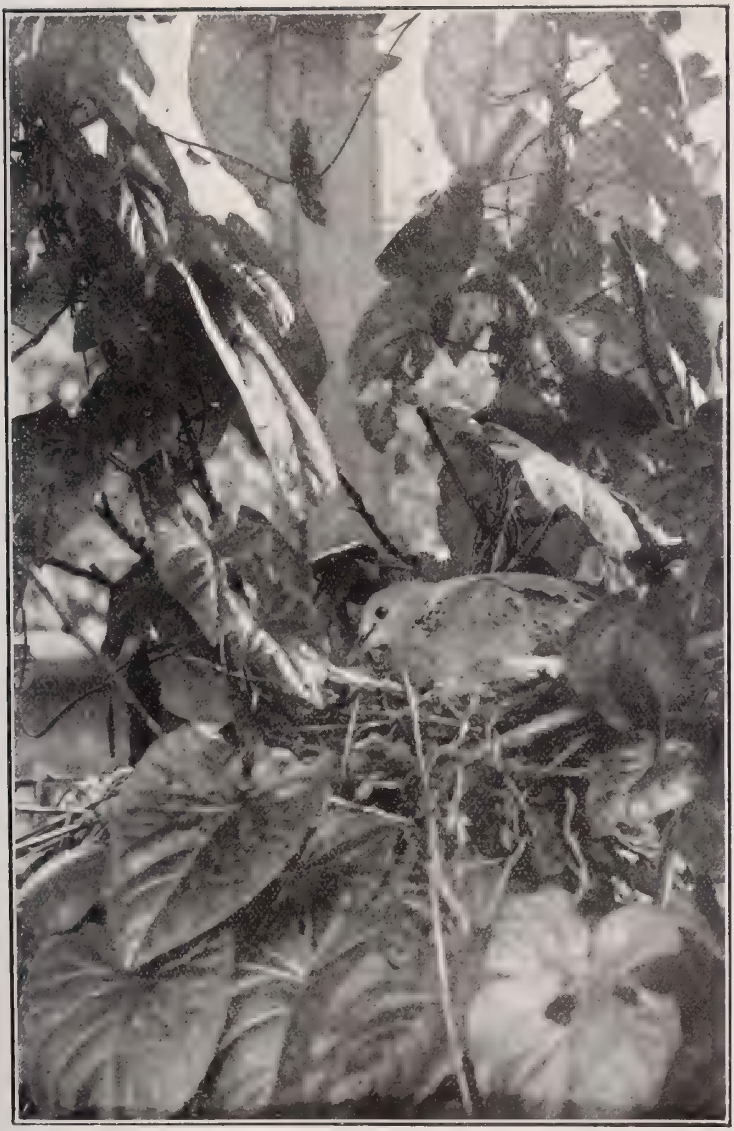


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Necklace Dove brooding Young.

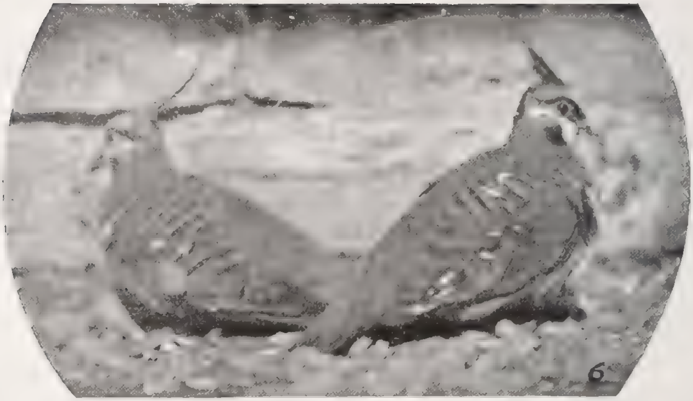


Photo H. Willford.

Plumed Ground Dove.

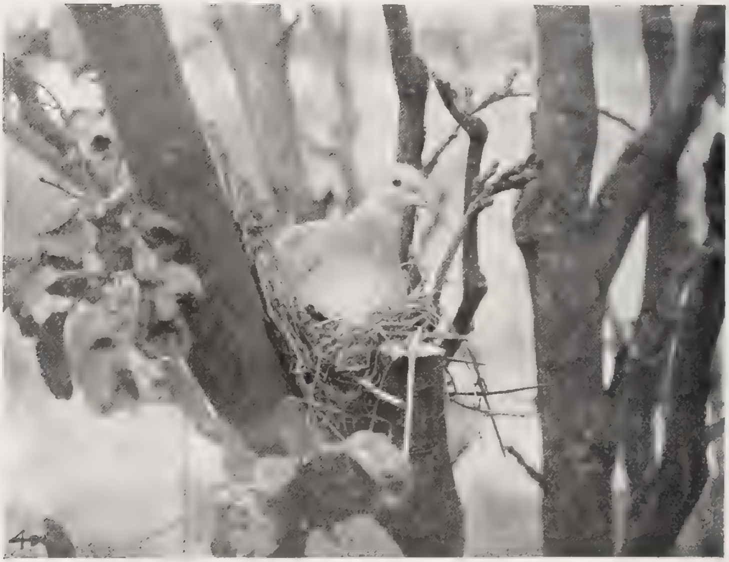


Photo H. Willford.

Senegal Dove on Nest.

them hardy and amiable, but in exceptionally severe winters they are better for being taken indoors, as, spending most of their time upon the ground, their feet get frost-bitten. Their upper mandible often gets overgrown. Mr. Payne, the Australian trapper, told me this could be obviated by having a few stones put down in the aviary and scattering seed thereon and in picking same from out of interstices between the stones they kept their beaks to normal dimensions.

VIOLET OR WHITE-WINGED DOVE *(Leptoptila jamaicensis)*. This species has not bred with me, but I have only had one pair, which never properly settled down, and, as the cock spent most of his time fighting the other doves in the aviary and interfering generally with nesting arrangements, I parted with them. Among others both Miss R. Alderson and Mr. H. E. Bright have bred this species; perhaps one or both of them will kindly describe the doings of their pairs.

To be continued.

◆

Quails.

BY W. SHORE BAILY

The Quail family is a very numerous one, and although these birds are found in almost every country in the world, the habits of the various species are very much alike. This makes them ideal aviary birds, as, once an aviculturist has had experience in keeping any one kind, he can safely keep another species from perhaps a totally different part of the world. The food requirements of all Quails are very simple. They will, in an aviary of mixed birds, practically keep themselves on the seeds that fall from the feeding tables. When they have young, live ants' eggs and mealworms are a help, but they are not absolutely indispensable. America has sent us the largest number of species so far. The United States has about a dozen species, and sub-species. Central and South America probably have more. Those that have found their way into our aviaries or to the London Zoo are:—

Californian	*Lophortyx californica*
Black-throated Crested	*Eupsychortyx leucopogon*
White-cheeked Crested	*Eupsychortyx nigrogularis*
Scaled	*Calipepla squamata*
Douglas	*Lophortyx douglasi*
Virginian	*Colinus virginiensis*
Cuban	*Colinus cubanensis*
Mexican Black-breasted	*Colinus pectoralis*
Massena	*Cyrtonix montezuma*
Bahama	*Ortyx bahamensis*
Spotted	*Odontophorus guttatus*
Sonnini's Crested	*Eupsychortyx sonnini*
Mountain Crested	*Oreortyx pictus*

Californian Quail. This is by far the most common member of our aviaries and has been frequently bred. The hens are very prolific, often laying fifty or more eggs in a season The young in a normal year are generally reared without difficulty, and, if they can get shelter from the wet, will stand our winter very well. They have been turned out in different parts of the country, but the experiment does not seem to have been a success. I don't know when they were first introduced into England, but Mons. Pichot tells us in the February number of the *Avicultural Magazine* that they were first introduced into France in 1896, when six cocks and five hens fetched the extraordinary price of £112. The American ornithologists claim that there is a sub-species of this handsome variety, which they have named *Lophortyx californica valli.* I can only say that I have shot many hundreds of these birds both in the mountains, foothills, and valleys, and have not noticed any difference in them but of course this sub-species may only be found in the more arid parts of the country that I did not visit. Their eggs, which vary a good deal, are buffish white, either spotted or blotched with reddish brown. They are not quite so prolific in the wild state as they are in our aviaries, but I have found nests containing as many as twenty eggs.

Black-throated Crested Quail. A rare species from Central America. It appears to have nested in Miss Baker's aviaries in 1907—B.N. Vol. VI, first series—seven eggs were laid, but young were not reared and very few particulars were

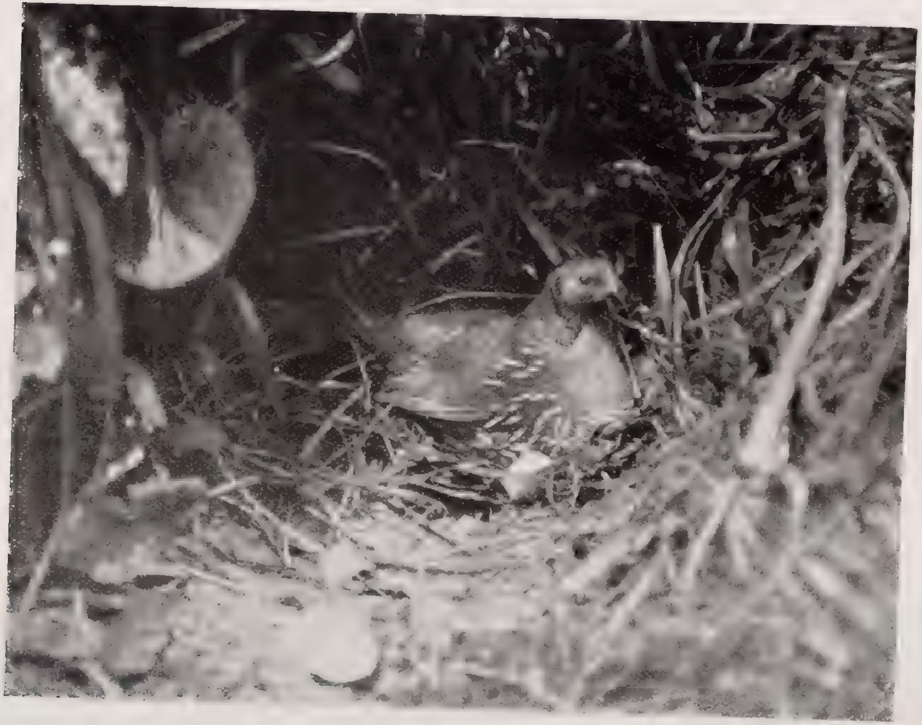


Photo H. Willford.

Califonian Quail Incubating.

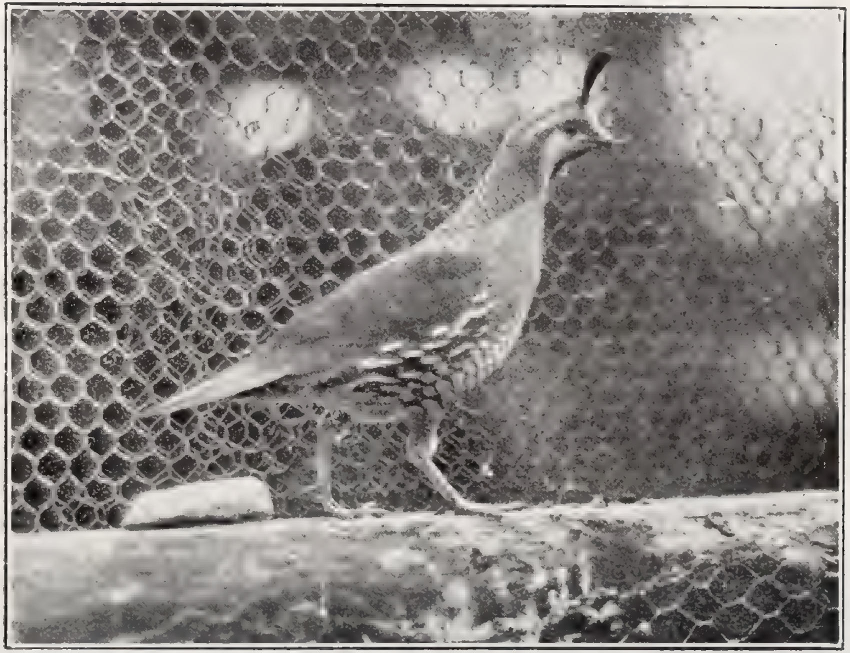


Photo W, Shore Baily.

Hybrid Squamata × Californian Quail.

published. The Zoo also had a pair in 1911, but apparently met with no success with them.

White-cheeked Crested Quail. A very pretty South American species, which was first bred by Mr. Teschemaker in 1910, and a full account, with photos, was published in B.N., Vol. I., N.S. The following season one of Mr. Teschemaker's young hens, mated with an imported cock, hatched thirteen young ones from as many eggs in one of my aviaries. Unfortunately they all perished in a heavy thunderstorm. A year or so later I received two young cocks, as a true pair of another variety from Fockelmann, since when I have not seen any advertised on the market. The eggs are pale buff, heavily biotched with a darker shade.

Scaled Partridge. This species was, I believe, first bred at the Zoo in 1913—B.N., Vol. IV.—but I am not certain whether any young were fully reared. In 1905 a hen *squamata* hatched eleven chicks out of thirteen eggs in Mr. Trevor Battye's aviaries, but none of them lived over ten weeks, so they can hardly be said to have been fully reared. In 1912 the writer bred some very pretty hybrids from a cock bird of this species and a hen Californian, see B.N., Vol III, N.S. The following year I had a good troup of young ones from a pair of them, thus proving the fertility of these hybrids. Eggs creamy white or pale buff, thickly covered with reddish brown spots and blotches. Habitat: Southern U.S.A. and Northern Mexico.

Douglas Quail. This handsome bird was first bred at the Zoo in 1912, see *Avicultural Magazine, Vol. III.* It has, I believe, bred there again since, but I can find no record of its having been kept by any of our members. Habitat: Central America.

Virginian Quail. It was first bred in an aviary in this country as far back as 1830. Nine chicks were hatched from twelve eggs. They were all fully reared but did not survive the winter. The nest was described in a London paper at the time as being like that of a Wren's with a hole in its side ! ! ! I cannot trace their having been kept in any of our members' aviaries of recent years. These birds have been frequently turned down by sportsmen in different parts of the country, but for some unknown reason they have never established themselves here, and I believe, the results have been exactly the same in France where similar experiments have been tried. In many parts of the U.S.A. the bird has now become scarce. Their eggs, from twelve to sixteen in number, are white.

Cuban Quail. This is a very closely allied species to the preceding. A young bird was reared by Mr. Astley under a Bantam hen in 1911—B.N., Vol. II., N.S. It appears to be more freely imported than *C. virginianus*, as I have had them offered to me by dealers on several occasions. Eggs similar to the last mentioned species.

Black-breasted Mexican Quail. Another very similar species. Young were hatched at the Zoo in 1912—B.N., Vol. II. N.S.—in an incubator, but I do not know if any were reared. Three were reared in my aviaries last year, a cock and two hens. A full account of this event was published in the *Avicultural Magazine* for February, also see B.N., Vol. VIII, N.S., page 21. The cock, acting in a similar way to the eastern hemipodes, hatched and reared the young without any assistance from the hen. I think this a rather interesting occurrence. Ten white eggs were laid, some of which showed faint buff and ash-coloured stains.

Massena Quail. Another species from the Southern U.S.A., and Northern Mexico, which differs very substantially from any of the quails already mentioned. It has a very much fuller and heavier crest, and this is not nearly so erectile as in other American species. The shape of its body is more that of the common English Quail, being squat and dumpy. In Texas and Arizona it is called by the cowboys the Fool Partridge on account of its stupidity. I rather think that its heavy crest interferes with its sight, as it not infrequently allows itself to be knocked down by a stick or stone. I can find no record of its having been reared in this country, but in France Mons. Pichot hatched three under a Bantam hen, one of which lived to be two months old. He tells us in the *Avicultural Magazine*, February, 1918, that he found this variety distinctly delicate, and this was

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Black-breasted Mexican Quail, cock incubating.

The grass stem A.B. crosses the shoulders of the sitting bird.

just my experience with the two pairs I have kept, which only lived a few months with me. They are, however, interesting birds and when peace comes I shall try and secure another pair. The eggs are white.

Bahama Quail. A very rarely imported species. It nested in Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote's aviaries in 1909—*Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. I., series 3. No particulars were published, as no young birds were hatched. I can find no record of their having been brought into the country since.

Spotted Quail. Was first imported from the Campeachy Coast in 1913 by Mr. R. Suggitt, and a very interesting article upon them, with photos, was published in B.N., Vol. IV., N.S. These birds did not attempt to breed and, I think that it is doubtful whether they were a true pair.

Sonnini's Crested Quail. This species has been kept at the Zoo. It is closely allied to *E. leucopogon*, and is a South American bird. It has not, as far as I am aware, been bred in this country.

Mountain Crested Quail. This is a larger and handsomer variety of the Californian Quail, and is found in the mountains of the Pacific slope. It is a very rare bird in this country, but Mr. Astley appears to have had a pair in 1900—B.N., Vol. I., N.S.—but did not succeed in getting them to breed. I am well acquainted with this bird in the wild state, where its habits are very similar to those of *L. californica*. The eggs are buff and unspotted.

(*To be concluded*)

◆

Whydahs.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O.

(*Continued from page 40*)

For meaning of abbreviations used in this list *vide* page 186, last Vol.

NIGERIAN COMBASOU.

Hypochera nigeriae. Boyd Alex. 1908. H.L. v. 437.

Range. R. Gongola, Nigeria.

LAKE CHAD COMBASOU.

H. neumanni. Boyd Alex. 1908. H.L. v. 437.

RANGE. C. Africa (Lake Chad).

◆

RHODESIAN COMBASOU.

H. codringtoni. Neave. 1907.

PLATE. Neave. Mem. & Proc. Manch. Lit. & Phil. Soc. 51. 1907.

RANGE. N. E. Rhodesia.

These three are local races of the Common Combasou, which have been recently described and separated.

◆

BROWN-WINGED COMBASOU.

Hypochera amauropteryx. H.L. v. 437.

Synonomy.

I

Steel-coloured Widow-finch. Steel Finch.

II

Hypochaera nitens (nec Gm). Kirk 1864. *Amadina nitens* (Layard. 1867).

H. ultramarina (nec. Gm) Gurney. 1860. & ? Reichenbach. Simgvogel.

H. ultramarina orientalis (Reich. 1894).

H. chalybeata (nec Mull.) Barratt. 1876.

H. amauropteryx. Sharpe. Cat. xiii. 308. 1890.

Hypochera amauropteryx. Sh. iv. 12.

H. funerea amauroptera. (Stark. 1900).

REFERENCES. Singv. 54. Plate. 22. B.S.A. i. 154. Sh. iv. 12. Butler. i. 186.

RANGE. E. & S. Africa (Equatorial Africa to the Zambesi). Damara Land to the Congo.

This, the first of Shelley's southern group, is distinguished from the other Combasous with light brown wings ete., by the steel green gloss on the black.

ULTRAMARINE COMBASOU.

Hypochera ultramarina. H.L. v. 437.

Synonomy.

I

Outre-mer. Buffon.
Ultramarine Finch. Latham.

II

Fringilla ultramarina. Gm. 1788. *Hypochaera ultramarina* (Cab. 1850) & Cat. 309. *Hypochera nitens ultramarina.* (Hartl. 1883).

References. Cassell. Plate. p. 385 (more like this species than *chalybeata*). Butler. i. 186. Sh. iv. 8.

Range. N. E. Africa (Nubia to Upper White Nile). West Africa (Gold Coast to Nigeria).

This is another northern dark-winged Combasou, which differs " from *H. chalybeata* only in the gloss on the plumage " of the males being violet shaded blue, with no green " (Sh).

In the A.M. for 1917. p.90. Mr. Allen Silver describes the beak as coral red. He writes that he and others had previously imagined they had possessed Ultramarine Combasous, " but " they were only very fine common Combasous......exhibiting " bluish rather than greenish sheen on their black plumage. " *H. ultramarina* stands well away and quite distinct from the " commoner species in having a bright coral red bill and feet, " whereas the bill of the latter, as everyone knows, is silvery " white. My bird assumed absolutely rich black plumage " with the brightest of Prussian blue reflections." The bird he writes of was one of those imported in 1914 as " Long-tailed Combasous " *(Vidua hypocherina).* Mr. Silver says that none of those which lived grew long tails and thinks that all of them were Ultramarine Combasous and that red bills are the leading characteristics of this species of *Hypochera.* I think there must be some error here, for no recent description gives the bill of this or any other Combasou as red, though it was so described by some of the earlier writers. As Dr. Butler remarks, this error can have easily been made when the birds were in winter plumage and mixed up with *V. serena* or other red-billed Whydah, such as *hypocherina.*

Mr. Silver's birds may after all have been the latter, which for some reason or another could not grow long tails.

The information on this point given by the various authorities may be summarised as follows:

Butler says that all examples of the three imported types agree in having pale creamy-yellowish or ivory-whitish bills, and applies the epithet " horny white " to that of *chalybeata*, but of this species Shelley, quoting Hartlaub, writes " bill and legs reddish," that is of the male; of the female, he quotes Butler's description " horny white." That " reddish " must be a mistake everyone who has kept combasous must agree.

Of *H. ultramarina* Shelley says that it agrees with *chalybeata* in all points except in the colour of the gloss, and quotes various differing descriptions of the colour of the bill; " whitish horn " (Jackson), " pale coral " (Lovat of a full-plumaged male from Abyssinia), " pinkish White " (Pease, also from Aybssinia), and " pale flesh colour " (Ragazzi, of a full-coloured male from Shoa). The last named says of two females shot at the same time, that the bills were red and the feet pale flesh colour (Sh. iv. 9).

Stark describes the bill of *funerea* as " white " and that of *amauropteryx* as " whitish;" Shelley quotes Barratt's description as " dark pink " for the latter, and says that Layard described it as " red," though according to Stark all the South African forms have the bill white and the feet red.

It will be seen that there is considerable divergence of opinion on this point, particularly as regards the species we are now dealing with, but on the whole one is inclined to believe that the opinion that all Combasous have white bills is the correct one, and that the red-billed examples must belong to the genus *Vidua.* However, one must not be too certain on this or any other point in aviculture.

Of this species Mr. A. L. Butler of Khartoum writes that there he has seen them in full plumage from August to March, and wonders if they change after once assuming the black plumage. Dr. Butler has found it not unusual for the common species *(chalybeata)* to retain the summer dress for several years in succession. In the Gambia too, one sees all-black Combasous *(chalybeata)* still in full colour long after the breeding season proper and when all the other Whydahs and Weavers have been in undress for months.

The only attempt at a record of the Ultramarine Combasou's breeding in confinement is the note by Mr. Teschemaker on p. 89 of the A.M. for 1910, that he had been informed that *H.ultramarina* had been bred in Germany. The more commonly imported *chalybeata* may however have been meant, and this is the more likely as the note is in the form of a list of Whydahs reported to have been bred in captivity, in which the name *H. chalybeata* does not appear, as it should in view of Russ's record, unless it is the species meant by the name *ultramarina*.

◆

MOURNING COMBASOU.

Hypochera funerea. H.L. v. 437.

Synonomy.

I

* ? the Black Linnet (Edwards. 1764) † B.M. Cat.
Black Widow-finch.

II

Fringilla funerea. De Tarrag. 1847. *Tiaris funerea* (Gray. 1849)
Hypochaera funerea (Sharpe. Cat. xiii. 310. 1890).
Hypochera funerea (Sh. 1896) & B. Afr. iv.
Hypochera funerea purpurascens (nec Reich). Neumann. 1900.
Hypochaera ultramarina. Hartl. 1857.
Hypochaera nitens. Hartert. 1886.

REFERENCES. Sh. iv. 10. B.S.A. i. 153.

RANGE. S.E. & E. Africa. Equatorial Africa (Victoria Nyanza). W. Africa (Nigeria).

This species Shelley describes as " similar to *H. ultramarina*, but differing in the quills and tail being of a paler brown and in having more white on the undersurface of the wing; no greenish-blue gloss on the plumage." From this it would seem to take a place midway between this author's two groups

Hypochera wilsoni. Hartert. 1901. H.L. v. 438.

RANGE. W. Africa (Borgu, River Niger).

A local race of the preceding, which is included in that by both Shelley and Reichenow.

◆

BLACK COMBASOU.

Hypochera nigerrima. H.L. v. 438.

Synonomy.

I

Purple Widow-finch.

II

Hypochaera nigerrima. Sharpe. 1871. and Cat. 311.
Hypochera funerea nigerrima (Stark. 1900).
Hypochera purpurascens. Reich. 1896.

REFERENCES. Sh. iv. 11. B.S.A. i. 154.

RANGE. S. W. & E. Africa. (Angola and lower Congo to the Zambesi, N. to Lindi).

The Black Combasou only differs from *H. funerea* in having a duller gloss on the black plumage of the male.

With this we reach the end of the 40 odd species and subspecies in the British Museum Hand-List, and nothing is left to do but to add the word

FINIS.

◆

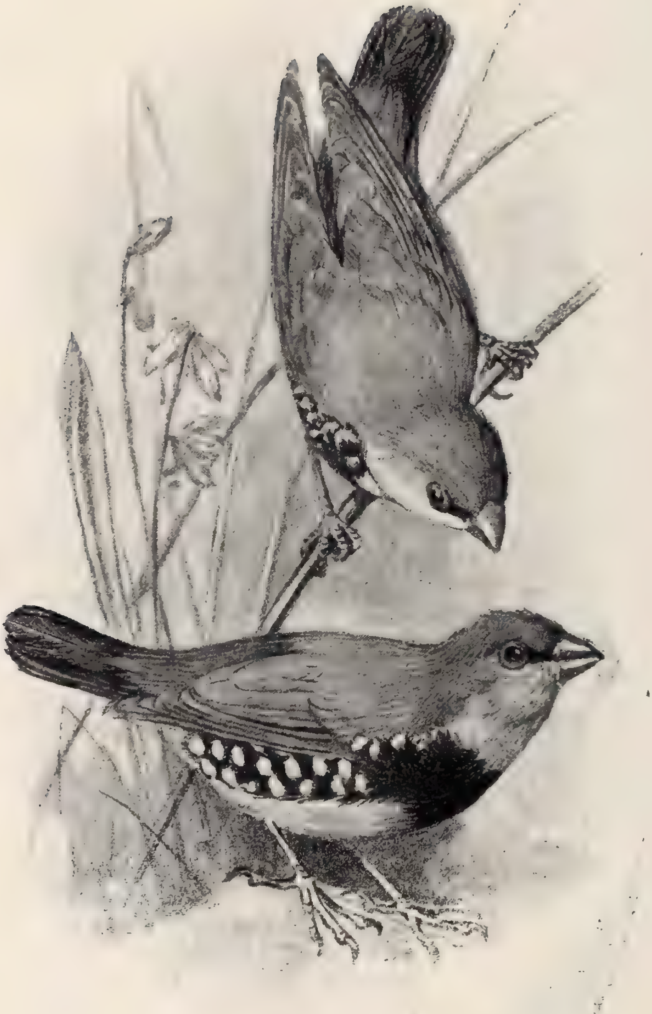
Correspondence.

MEMBERS' SALES AND EXCHANGES AND THE PERPETUATION OF SPECIES IN OUR AVIARIES.

SIR,—I consider Lord Tavistock's scheme in our last issue an excellent one. It will be a great boon to many to get odd birds or pairs from an English aviary.

If the Register is started please put me down as a breeder of : Rosella and Stanley Parrakeets; Conures; Bronze-wing, and Brush-Bronze-wing, Necklace, and Daimond Doves.

W. SHORE BAILY.



AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

From life by Mrs. A. M. Cook, F.Z.S.

Diamond Finches.

(Steganopleura guttata).

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Diamond Finch.

(*Steganopleura guttata*).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

The Diamond Finch, Diamond Sparrow, or Spotted-sided Finch has been known to aviculture for many years, and has been fairly frequently bred. It is a very handsome species, the charming contrast of the greys, browns, black and whites of its plumage are intensified by the brilliant carmine-scarlet of the lower-back and upper tail-coverts, and crimson beak, but it will be better to give a brief description, which, with the aid of Mrs. Cook's characteristic drawing, will enable even the tyro to recognise this charming species at sight.

Description: The general colouring is grey-brown (mouse-colour); head grey; rump and upper tail-coverts fiery carmine; tail black; under-parts white, with a broad band of black across the chest; sides black, regularly spotted with white, beak crimson (the hen has the base of her upper mandible rose-pink); lores black; eyelids crimson; legs grey.

Habits: In its wild state (I am quoting Gould and North) it is widely distributed, is very common in South Australia and N.S. Wales; passes most of its time on the ground, and feeds on the seeds of various grasses. Gould states that the nest is frequently built among the sticks forming the under-surface of the nests of the smaller species of Eagles, and that, too, during the time the Eagle is incubating, both species hatching and rearing their progeny in harmony; this he witnessed several times, and took the eggs of the Eagle and Finch at the same time. North states the species is numerous in N.S. Wales and Victoria, and that the nest is composed of dried wiry grasses, etc., of a spherical form with an elongated neck for ingress and egress; it is usually placed low down in the thick foliage of a *Syncarpia, Eucalyptus, or Angophora* in N.S Wales. The clutch is five or six white eggs, rather elongate in form and nearly equal in size at both ends. September and the three following months constitute the breeding season.

In Captivity: I have always found them amiable in a mixed series, providing the aviary was not over-crowded; though in other aviaries I have seen pairs which were said to be meddlesome and interfering with the smaller species, and I have heard of others, but I certainly consider them safe for the mixed aviary, providing there is ample room for all.

One writer at least gives them the reputation of being easy to breed; they are certainly ready enough to go to nest, but it is not the general experience for many young to be reared; some have found them quite disappointing, and could get no results from them, though the accommodation was good and natural. Personally, I have had a good few pairs one time and another, and have found some pairs very unsatisfactory and others just the reverse. The only thing to do is, that if a pair did not rear young by the end of the third season, they should be got rid of-they might do quite well in another aviary, but such pairs ought not to be sold without the purchaser being informed as to their lack of inclination to go to nest. I have seen pairs which have been quite prolific, seen their progeny too, but I never possessed such a pair, though young have been reared in my aviaries on more than one occasion.

Their call note is very plaintive and uninspiring, but is not unpleasing as part of the avian choir. In the aviary they are interesting and attractive, nearly always "in the picture." Their love dance is very grotesque and interesting—perched on a stem he pulls himself very erect, the neck being stretched, chest and abdomen puffed out, and with straw in beak, head depressed and mostly turned a little aside, he bobs up and down uttering all the while his queer, plaintive little song. He is very energetic in so showing himself off to his mate, and during the breeding season is quite an amusing and entertaining little fellow.

Mostly they prefer an artificial nesting site, their choice usually falling upon a Hartz travelling case, when such is available, almost filling same with grass bents, feathers, etc. On one occasion a nest was constructed in a bush in my aviary; true it was a sphere, but with so many of the ends of the grass stems, of which it was formed, extending out like quills, or drooping downwards, that, at first sight, it appeared almost shapeless externally, looking like a mere untidy mass of dry grass; the entrance was only slightly extended—the hen would seldom, if ever, allow the cock in the nest, or if he managed to dart in he was quickly hustled out again; so much of this went on that I feared there could be no result, but in spite of my fears three strong young birds eventually left the nest. The young were reared mainly on seed (Canary, Indian and white millet) and green food, though the parent birds did capture a few flies and other insects in the aviary; owing to the presence of several Softbills it was very rarely they managed to secure a mealworm.

Both sexes share the duties of incubation—period 12-13 days—young leave the nest when about a month old. In the nestling plumage the underparts are greyish white, sides dark grey and without any spots; upper parts lightish brown, with a patch of red on the rump. The passing to full colour is gradual; spots first appear on the sides, the black band across the chest and along the sides begins to appear, and the underparts slowly become more white, and the red on the rump becomes more intense; red begins to appear at the base of the mandibles, and gradually the full rich colour of the adult bird is reached.

Its brilliant and pleasing appearance, interesting and attractive demeanour, though there are periods of listlessness, quaint love dance, and other alluring attributes certainly constitute them most desirable inmates for the mixed aviary.

◆

Quails.

By W. Shore Baily.

(Concluded from page 71).

The Asiatic Quails are very much unlike their American cousins, being much smaller and having no crests. There appears to be about a score of species and sub-species, of which the larger number belong to the family of Hemipodes, which are really not true quails. Those that have been imported are: —

Rock Bush	*Perdicula argoondah.*
Jungle Bush	*P. asiatica.*
Chinese Painted	*Excalfactoria chinensis.*
Rain	*Coturnix coromandelica.*
Greater Button	*Turnix tanki.*
Little Button	*T. dussumieri.*
Bustard	*T. pugnax*
Black-throated Bustard	*T. taigour*

The Rock Bush Quail, a pretty little Indian bird, was first bred by Mr. Teschemaker in 1910; see B.N. (N.S.) Vol. 1 for a very interesting illustrated article. Some years ago they nested with me late in the autumn, but the male bird destroyed the eggs. I kept these birds in the same aviary as a pair of Painted Quails. They agreed very well for a time, roosting together in a kind of hollow square, and looking very pretty with their four little heads all pointed outwards in different directions, but when the breeding season came along there were great fights amongst them, the hens being quite as pugnacious as the cocks, so I had to remove the Chinese to save them from being "strafed." Their eggs, generally four or five in number, are buff.

The Jungle Bush Quail, a very closely allied species, is not easily differentiated at the first glance. It also comes from India, but is found in a less rocky part of the country. It was, I believe, first bred by our Editor in 1914, but no account of its breeding seems to have been published. I have a cock and two hens. In the middle of last June I found one of the hens sitting upon five eggs. The curious thing about these eggs was that they were spotted with red, whereas their normal colour is white. However, this variation did not interfere with their hatching

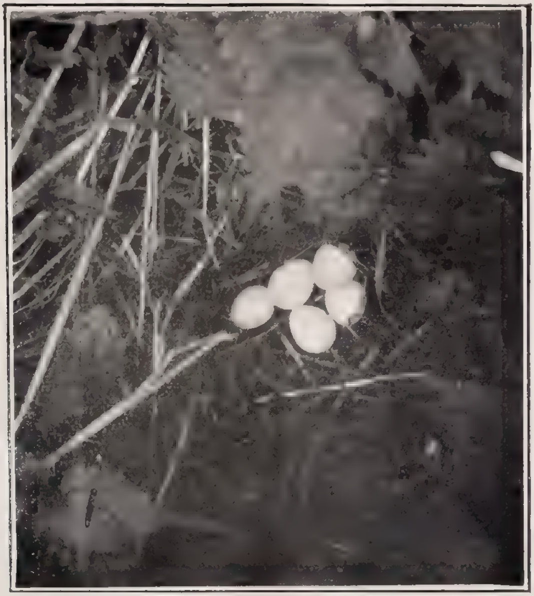

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest of Jungle Bush Quail.

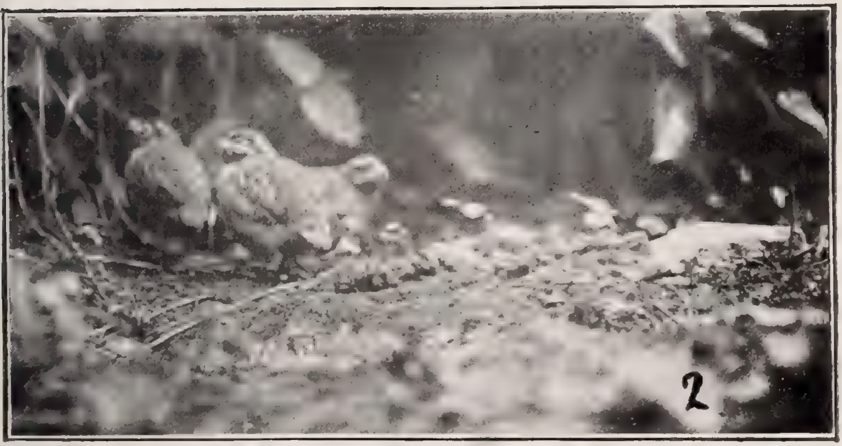

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Jungle Bush Quail.

as five little chicks, about the size of Bumble-bees, left the nest. Thinking that the cock and second hen might interfere with them, I removed these to another aviary, but I think that this was a mistake. The little ones did very well for a few weeks, when they began to die off, the last one living until two months old, at which time it was fully fledged, although not nearly as big as its mother. I was very busy with war work at this time, and I fancy that their dietary was neglected, or they would have been fully reared. The most noticeable feature of the young quails was their buff eyebrow streak, which was very marked at the time of birth. Late in October the hen again went to nest, and this time brought off four chicks from five eggs. These did better than the others for a time and I thought that I was going to rear them. The cock and second hen each took charge of a chick and brooded it day and night. However, some very heavy frosts, late in December, proved too much for them and they all died. They are pretty little birds and quite worth breeding.

The CHINESE PAINTED QUAIL has been bred in very many aviaries, and I do not know to whom the honour of first breeding it belongs*. It is, I think, quite the prettiest of all the little quails, and, as it becomes engagingly tame, it makes a nice pet. The hens are extraordinarily prolific in captivity, laying as many as a hundred eggs in a season. The young ones grow very fast, and, at five weeks old the cocks are in full colour and paying attentions to the hens. Their eggs are buff or pale drab, speckled with brown. Hybrids have been bred between them and Rain Quail. A very closely allied bird is found in Australia *(E. lineata)* and this was bred by Mr. Seth Smith in 1900. Africa also boasts of a member of the family *(E. adamsoni)*, but it is doubtful whether either of these are true species. Needless to say, they will interbreed quite freely.

The RAIN QUAIL is another Indian species and one that is rather more freely imported than some of its congeners. It was bred by Mr. L. M. Seth Smith in 1903: *Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. 1, N. S., and was also bred in the same year by Mr. G. C. Swailes. It has also nested, not infrequently, in some of our other members' aviaries. This bird is a rather small edition of the Common Quail, and does not weigh more than two ounces. It owes its name to the fact that it migrates at the commencement, in India, of the rainy season, although it is found in some parts of that country all the year round. Its eggs, from eight to nine in number, are smaller than those of *C. communis*, and are very varied in colour, but this is usually buff or whitish, blotched or speckled with black, olive or purplish spots.

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* E.G.B. Meade-Waldo, 1898, *vide Avic. Mag.*, Vol. V., page 1.—Ed.

The GREATER BUTTON QUAIL was first bred by Mr. D. Seth Smith in 1903, and a very full account, with an excellent coloured plate appeared in the *Avicultural Magazine*, Vol I, N.S. These little Hemipodes are quite the most interesting of the quail family. With them the position of the sexes is reversed. The hens are altogether larger and handsomer than the cocks, which poor hen-pecked creatures have to do the whole of the incubating and family raising. The hen in the meantime wanders off and looks for another husband, and when she has found him lays him a clutch of four or five eggs and then starts husband hunting again, and so on *ad infinitum*. Another curious habit noticed by Mr. Seth Smith was the way in which the hen calls the cock, when she has found a tit-bit. Of her young ones she takes no notice, unless it is to kill off a troop when she feels in an evil temper. The eggs are creamy-white, speckled with buff or grey spots. The incubation period is very short, being about half the time of the little Painted Quails. The young are in adult plumage in about seven weeks.

The LITTLE BUTTON QUAIL, by far the smallest member of the family, appears not to have bred in this country, although in at least one instance eggs have been laid in a cage. Very few have found their way into our aviaries, but I do not think that it would be difficult to breed them. The Zoo have had them on two or three occasions. Their four or five dirty white eggs are thickly peppered with brown.

The BUSTARD QUAIL. This, the commonest of the Indian hemipodes, is somewhat smaller than the Common Quail and like the latter, is a great fighter. I have not heard of its having attempted to breed here. I saw some very tame specimens at the Zoo in, I think, 1913. The eggs, usually four in number, are large for the size of the bird, and glossy white, peppered all over with brown and blotched at the larger end.

The Black-throated Bustard Quail was kept by Mr. Seth Smith in 1903, but did not attempt to breed with him. The Zoo have also had it. This is another bird well worth a place in our aviaries, and one with which to win a breeding medal, too.

The Quails of Australia number about fourteen species and sub-species, of which six belong to the *Turnicidae*. Of these only three species, as far as I have been able to ascertain, have reached this country, and all have been bred by that most successful of aviculturists, Mr. David Seth Smith.

The Swamp Quail *(Synoecus australis)* was bred in 1905: see *Avicultural Magazine*, Vol 3, N.S. According to Gould four sub-species are foun din various parts of the Australian continent, and they differ very little from each other. It is a free breeder in captivity, but does not very often come over. Its eggs are dull creamy-white, sometimes without markings, and somtimes minutely freckled all over with buff .

The Stubble Quail *(Coturnix pectoralis)* very closely resembles *C. communis*, and its habits are exactly similar. It was bred in 1906—*Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. iv, N.S. Its eggs are indistinguishable from those of our common bird.

The Variegated Bustard Quail *(Turnix varia)* is an interesting bird, whose habits are practically identical with those of the Indian *Turnicidae* already described. It was bred in 1905—*Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. 3, N.S. Its eggs, four in number, are glossy white, spotted and blotched, especially at the larger end, with slatey-blue, and speckled all over with minute specks of brown.

Africa is the least favoured of the continents, outside of our own, as far as the family of quails is concerned. It possesses three members of the *Turnicidae*, including the European species *Turnix sylvatica*, and four of the true quails including *Coturnix communis*. Of these only three seem to have been imported of recent years. These are:—

The Cape	*Coturnix africana*
The Harlequin	*C. delegorguei.*
The Painted	*Excalfactoria adamsoni.*

The Cape Quail has been kept at the Zoo, and I think that one or two of our members have also had it, but it is so much like our English bird as not to be worth importing. I can find no record of its having bred in captivity, but it is very likely to have done so. Its eggs, from six to twelve in number, are yellowish-brown, spotted and blotched with darker brown.

The Harlequin Quail was, I believe, first bred by Mr. Wormald in 1908—B.N., Vol. 7. It is a rather freely imported species, and has been bred on several occasions by different members of our Society. Its eggs are buff or stone colour, heavily blotched and spotted with brown. They number from six to eight in a clutch.

The Painted Quail is found in West Africa, and has been not infrequently imported. As it would probably be sold by the dealers as the Chinese Painted Quail, it is quite likely to have been bred under this name. The difference between this bird and *E. chiniensis* is apparently very slight.

Birds of British Guiana.

By Chas. Dawson, S.J., M.A. (Oxon).

(Continued from page 52)

CHATTERERS.

These are forest birds, feeding upon berries and seeds, with insects and even lizards. They are all peculiar to the Neo-Tropical regions and include some of the most gorgeously coloured birds in the world; such as the Crimson Cotinga, the Fire-Bird, the Pompadour Cotinga, the Purple-throated Chatterer, etc.; and some of the most remarkable: as the Cock-of-the-Rock, Umbrella Bird, and the Campanero or Bell-Bird. They vary in size, the Bald Cotinga being as large as a crow and like it in appearance, others as small as a Sparrow. The Cock-of-the-Rock has the habit of displaying himself before the females after the manner of *Galliformes*. The Campanero, which lives in the tops of high trees, utters a double note, resembling the striking of a hammer upon an anvil, which may be heard for three miles. It has a hollow coruncle in its bill which it will inflate with air and erect for several inches; but this has nothing to do with its bell-like note. The Umbrella-Bird is black and has a permanent crest as described: the Green-heart Bird utters a triple ringing note that resounds through the forest. Some of the Cotinga have bare orbits or patches. There are some thirty genera including a hundred and sixty species. Little is known of their habits. The Cock-of-the-Rock makes its nest of stick and mud on some projections of rock within a cave and therein lays two eggs of buff, spotted with red and purple; others build in trees.

CHATTERERS. (Colonial).—*Cotingidae.*

Black-headed Cotinga	*Tityra cayana.*
*†Spy ..	,, *inquisitor.*
Rosy-throated ..	*Platypsaris minor.*
*†Grey-throated green-backed Broad-billed Cotinga	*Pachyrhamphus griseigularis.*
*White-vented ,,	,, *surinamus.*
†Ash-coloured ,,	,, *cinereus.*
†Black ,,	,, *niger.*
†Dark-coloured ,,	,, *atricapillus.*
Greenheart-Bird (shy-bird)	*Lathria cinerea.*
*Wreathed Cotinga	.. *streptophora.*
Grey Cotinga (flute playing, reddish)	*Aulia hypopyrrha.*
*†Dusky Cotinga	*Lipaugus simplex.*
*†Foul ,,	.. *immunus.*
Yellow-back Cotinga	*Attila uropygialis.*
*†Ash-breasted ,,	,, *spodiostethus.*
Rufous .. (bush-lover)	,, *thamnophiloides.*
Fire Bird	*Phoenicocercus carnifex.*
Cock-of-the-Rock	*Rupicola rupicola.*
Coral-billed	*Pipreola whitelyi.*
Purple-breasted Cotinga	*Cotinga cotinga.*
Purple-throated ,,	.. *cayana.*
Pompadore ,,	*Xipholena pompadora.*
*†White-white ,, (rusty-sided)	*Iodopleura leucopygia.*
Manakin ,,	,, *pipra.*
Small dusky ,,	.. *fusca.*
Crimson ,,	*Haematoderus militaris*
Crimson-throated ,,	*Querula cruenta.*
Crimson-breasted ..	*Pyroderus oronocensis.*
*†Umbrella-bird ,,	*Cephalopterus ornatus.*
Bald Cotinga or Quow	*Calvifrons calvus.*
Blue-necked Cotinga (naked-throated)	*Gymnoderus foetidus.*
Bell Bird (hollow-beaked)	*Chasmorhynchus niveus.*
†Spotted hollow-beak	,, *variegatus.*

MANAKINS.

These birds, closely allied to *Contingidae*, are little like them in outward appearance; they are all small birds, said to have the habits of the English Tit-mice. All belong to Neo-Tropical regions, numbering nineteen genera and some eighty species. Many of them have brilliant patches of colour; *Pipra aureola*, for instance, has a flaring red head, which, when the crest is erected, looks like a flaming torch; others have golden heads or yellow. They live among trees or shrubs and feed on fruit, berries, seeds and also insects. Their note may be loud or whistling; one species at least, *(Chiroxiphia linearis)* has the credit of displaying itself, and another of the same genus *(caudata)* of holding a concert, all listening while one sings. The females are generally dull green, or some other sombre hue. They make shallow nests of grass and tendrils which they hang from the forks of trees or shrubs, and lay eggs, yellowish or reddish white, mottled or blotched with darker colour.

MANAKINS. (Colonial).—*Pipridae.*

†Yellow Manakin		*Piprites chlorion.*
Green ,,		,, *uniformis.*
Black ,,		*Xenopipo atronitens.*
Crested ,,		*Ceratopipra cornuta.*
Scarlet-crested Manakin	(?)	,, *iracunda.*
Scarlet-headed ,,		*Pipra aureola.*
Golden-headed ,,		,, *auricapilla.*
White-capped ,,		,, *leucocilla.*
Crested ,,		,, *comata.*
Blue-rumped ,,		,, *serena.*
Tricolour & black ,,		,, *suavissima.*
†Spotted ,,		,, *gutturalis.*
†Short-tailed ,,	(?)	,, *brachyura.*
*Cinnamon ,,		*Neopipo cinnamomea.*
Blue-backed, red-capped		*Chiroxiphia pareola.*
		,, *caudata.*
Black and White Manakin		*Manacus manacus.*
†Dusky Manakin *(Heteropelma)*		*Scotothorus wallacei.*
Earth-brown Manakin		,, *amazonum.*
Yellow-crested ,,		,, *igniceps.*
Great ,,	(?)	*Schiffornis major.*
Yellow-headed ,,	(?)	*Heterocercus flavivertex.*
Gold-fronted ,,		*Neopelma aurifrons.*

To be continued.

Miscellaneous Experiences of Outdoor Aviculture.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

The following rambling notes were written many years ago, but have not appeared in Bird Notes, and, as there is an enquiry for some notes on the more freely imported species I am inserting this paper, almost as originally written, simply deleting such items as later experience has proved erroneous, and adding one or two short sentences to bring other parts into line with latest data. The dates given herein, unless otherwise specified, all refer to the year 1901.

A dream of my early days used to be a series of aviaries, each one to contain a single breeding pair, but this experience has proved to be a fallacy, and the best results, with me, have been in the general mixed aviary (not overcrowded), where a certain amount of contention goes on for nesting sites, special foods, etc., which comes nearer to their wild life than does absolute *peace and plenty* and isolation in separate aviaries. It must be clearly understood, however, that I am not advocating the inclusion of such pairs as would cause the weak and inoffensive to go about in fear of their lives and ultimately to succumb to continuous harrying.

"Can much be done with only one aviary"? is a question frequently asked. I answer most decidedly "Yes." But in the first place the aviculturist must decide as to the course he intends to pursue. If breeding is to be his paramount aim, then he must content himself with small numbers and variety; say six or at most seven pairs of birds, in an aviary of say 20ft. long, 3 to 4 ft. wide, and 6 to 8ft. high. But even thus, the young must be disposed of as they assume adult plumage—or a second aviary of equal size, kept merely as a flight, erected for their accommodation—otherwise they will upset their parents' breeding arrangements, in fact almost nullify them.

On the other hand, if the aviculturist decides on number and variety; then he can have in the same space 50 or 60 birds. But while he will gather a lot of useful general information, his breeding experiences will be few and far between, though under such conditions, during the early years of my avicultural experience, I successfully reared numbers of Zebra and Ribbon Finches, Java Sparrows, Cockateels, and similar common stuff, with interest and pleasure, if not profit; but that is a minor matter with the earnest aviculturist; he is athirst for knowledge and counts not the cost of anything within his means.

Now as to variety, what may we keep together? What I am about to say, I am afraid many of our members will consider very unorthodox, if not rank heresy; be that as it may, I am simply stating what I have done, and to some extent am still doing. If others will adopt the same precautions, they will succeed in the same, and possibly greater measure. Now for the birds I have kept, and still keep together in the same enclosure.

Waxbills in variety including the small; *(Sporaeginthus subflavus)* a fairly representative series of Mannikins, Grass finches, Grey Java Sparrows, a few Buntings, and a pair of Cockateels.

Methods of procedure: Do not get some of all the above, and loose them into your aviary straightway; this would simply invite disaster. Get first some Waxbills, and let them have the aviary to themselves for a month; by that time they will know their way about and take care of themselves.

Next introduce a pair or two of Grassfinches, watching carefully those of larger size till their demeanour is ascertained.

Mannikins may follow; these are generally quite harmless, excepting the Magpie Mannikin *(Amauresthes fringilloides)* which had better be left out, unless the enclosure be very large, for although he seldom does much harm, in the event of a quarrel a blow from his powerful beak would be fatal, even to a bird fully his own size.

Saffron Finches must be introduced with caution, carefully watched, and at once removed if they become at all combative; and only one pair must be kept. But in spite of the evil reputation they enjoy, I had a very amiable pair for several years, which never did any mischief.

The same care must be exercised as to Weavers, and, as they scarcely ever attempt to breed*, though they build numbers of their interesting and cleverly woven nests, it is well to limit the supply to one or two cocks, for instance Orange, Madagascar and Red-billed varieties.

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* In a roomy natural aviary, not overcrowded, Weavers and Whydahs have in many instances successfully reproduced their kind.

The Cockateels should be introduced the second year, then they seldom do any mischief; mine have never done any.

Green Singing Finches and Pekin Robins are inveterate egg eaters, unless the aviary be very large; otherwise they are handsome and charming birds.

Now I can almost hear someone saying, What about tragedies!! Well I have never had any; not a single death which I could attribute to violence, excepting when I first turned the Cockateels in. No sooner had the larger finches got over the scare caused by the introduction of large birds into their midst, than they set to work to mob them, and a Saffron and Greenfinch were mortally wounded in the scrimmage. The next day there was a declaration of peace, which has not been broken since, though three years have run their course.

Favourites: Well I suppose we ought not to have any, as aviculturists; however this may be, there are some that by their artless and confiiding ways insinuate themselves into a first place in our affections. At the head of these, with me, stand the beautiful little Zebra Waxbills, with their taking ways, funny little love dance, fearless, happy and confiding demeanour under all circumstances, coupled with their extreme hardiness and longevity. These qualities give them the first place with me.

Silverbills: These are very pretty and entertaining birds, of quiet dainty appearance, having a soft, sweet running sort of song, quaint, ridiculous (from our standpoint) courting of the male, whilst their trustful and confiding demeanour cause them, I think, to win their way with all.

I have been surprised to find these described as exclusive seed eaters, and as never, or scarcely ever, touching green-food Mine certainly eat mealworms, gentles and ants' cocoons, and also visit the soft food saucer, picking out some dainty tit-bit They also regularly eat a little greenfood, and eagerly search it over for aphides, of which they appear to be very fond. This causes me to infer that, in common with all finches, they largely rear their young on insect food.

While, speaking in general, Waxbills, for obvious reasons, most readily win their way with us, I must confess to a strong liking (some will perhaps think it depraved) for Munias. In a fair-sized aviary I find them quite active, entertaining, and full of interest with their quaint ways.

The impudent, cheeky, self-assertive plebeian little Zebra Finch, so active in blowing his own little trumpet, is a favourite everywhere.

There are many birds which, while lacking the seductive traits of those particularised above, command a place in our collections, by reasons of their rarity and little-known habits, striking and handsome plumage, or diversity between winter and summer dress. I will name a few, not going over a long list, but keeping in mind the aforesaid outdoor aviary mixed series.

Indigo Bunting and Nonpareil Bunting: I have not kept these two together, but from one or more of our members' experience, should think it possible to do so.

Orange Weaver, Madagascar and Red-billed Weavers. The All Green Parrakeet may be kept in lieu of the Cockateels, if preferred, or a pair of each if the aviary is not less than 30 ft. long.

I find I have omitted the beautiful little Chinese Quail; a pair of these should certainly be kept, they not only give variety, being ground birds, but practically live on the seed the other birds scatter on the floor, thus they not only charm, but help to starve out the mice. They also need soft food and a few insects

Winter: This is usually looked upon as a trying time for the outdoor aviary—so it is for the aviculturist attending to birdy wants in rough weather—but for the birds themselves I do not find it is so; the trying time is damp, wet weather, whether it occurs during the heat of summer, or cold of winter; dry cold does not hurt or cause inconvenience to the majority of foreign birds. At least they appear to feel it less than our native Britishers. The little Zebra Waxbills, during the sharp frosts and bitter winds of the past month (March, 1901), have been the merriest, happiest little creatures in my aviary, taking their morning tub as if it were mid-summer; spending their time cuddled up in a ball and shivering, Oh dear No!! but on the go, flitting here and there, chirping and trilling from morn till night. The Zebra Finch is, I know, noted for its hardiness, but one little fellow this year began to moult early in March last, and he has come triumphantly through it, and is now (April 3rd) as saucy and impudent as it is possible for a Zebra Finch to be. This might have passed my notice, for these cold wet days I have done little but just give them their necessary food and away again, but one of my sisters told me one of my Zebras was looking queer, so I went and had a look at him; he came at once to one of the front branches, and though looking out of sorts, blew his ridiculous little trumpet with all the assurance and cheek in the world. I saw at once what was the matter, gave him some strong insectile mixture and a few mealworms, and he was soon A1 again.

In looking through my notes, I find that on many occasions my birds have eaten the grass, etc. growing in the aviary, before the sun had removed the frost from it—our native birds do the same, for most of their food must be covered with frost during many of winter's days. I have also seen my birds partaking of seed that had stood all night in the aviary, and was thickly coated over with frost. I also give my birds garden green-stuff, just as taken, during wet weather, and it is freely eaten with no harmful result. At the same time such *must not* be offered to birds in cage or indoor bird-rooms.

Moulting and change of plumage. At this period I always increase insect food. All finches, aye and Waxbills too, seem glad of it at this time, and I am convinced the lustre of their plumage is added to by its use.

As regards Avadavats I have nothing further to add to what I have already stated; their time of moult and assumption of court dress has been as hitherto. I may say, in passing, that my first pair have now spent six winters out of doors, and are still in perfect health and trim.

My Indigo Bunting I have had with me but two winters; its time of moult and coming into colour is about the same as that of our native Chaffinch. It is now (April 3rd) just come into full colour, and is a perfect picture. When out of colour there is a good bit of dull blue about the upper parts, and also subdued patches underneath. I cannot discover that any feathers are shed during the change from winter to breeding plumage.

I may say that in my aviary, although the nest boxes only get an annual clean, red mite (the curse of indoor aviaries and cages) is unknown.

On a second looking through my note-book I find an entry re the Chinese Quail to the effect that these pretty little birds seem semi-nocturnal in their habits. They certainly sleep during the heat of our summer afternoons, and are very active during the twilight of our summer evenings, and I also think during part of the night for when I have gone, as I mostly do during summer, down the garden the last thing to have a look round, I have on many occasions seen them scuttling off to their shelter (a square patch of sand, raised 6 in. above floor level with a sloping board over it, leaving only the front open) at 12 midnight.

I hope in this rambling avicultural chat there will be some items of interest for new adherents to aviculture.

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity

By Dr. E. Hopkinson. D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(Continued from page 62).

For meaning of abbreviations used in this list *vide* pages 58—9.

21.—RED CARDINAL. *Cardinalis cardinalis.* **W.T.P.**
Fairly commonly. For accounts see A.M. i. 124 and Gedney. ii. 159.
Abroad : 1st Leuckfeld †Russ. " Easily bred " (Russ) .
Hybrids.
[RED CARDINAL × RED-CRESTED CARDINAL.
See B.N. 1907. 222. " One deformed young one lived seven weeks.]
RED CARDINAL × GREEN CARDINAL. W.T.P.

◆

22.—BLUE CHAFFINCH. *Fringilla teydea.* **W.T.P.**
1st Meade-Waldo. See A.M. 1895. 103.

23.—CHAFFINCH. *F. coelebs.*

Croker. 1914. See record p. 341. B.N. 1915.

HYBRIDS. ** See foot-note.

CHAFFINCH × GREENFINCH. W.T.P.
,, × BRAMBLEFINCH. W.T.P.
Reeves, 1905. See B.N. 1907. 174.
,, × CANARY. W.T.P.
× Chaffinch (Greenfinch).
× Chaffinch (Bramblefinch).
× Chaffinch (Goldfinch).

◆

24.—BRAMBLEFINCH. *F. montifringilla.*

1st Suggitt, 1916. See B.N. 1916. 292.

HYBRIDS.

BRAMBLEFINCH × CHAFFINCH. W.T.P.
Vale "Said to produce fertile offspring" †Vale.
(? if this record does not refer to wild-bred hybrids. E.H.).
× Bramblefinch (Chaffinch).

◆

25.—GOLDFINCH. *Carduelis carduelis.* **W.T.P.**

Fairly easily bred. For an account see B.N. 1911. p. 352.

HYBRIDS.

GOLDFINCH × HIMALAYAN GOLDFINCH. W.T.P.
Vale. "Fertile offspring" (Vale).
Recently bred by Paterson. See B.N. 1914. 267.
,, × GREENFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × JAPANESE GREENFINCH. Vale.
,, × CHAFFINCH. Vale.
,, × SISKIN. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × LINNET. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × RED POLL. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale. "Hybrids fertile" (Vale).
,, × BULLFINCH. W.T.P.
× Goldfinch (Chinese Greenfinch).
× Goldfinch (Siskin).
× Goldfinch (Twite).
× Goldfinch (Redpoll).
× Goldfinch (Canary).

◆

** At the C.P. Show, December 1903, a bird described as "a hybrid English Chaffinch and American Nightingale, Hen, 1 year" was exhibited. I remember it and noted at the time that it looked exactly like a common hen Chaffinch.

26.—HIMALAYAN GOLDFINCH. *C. caniceps.*

HYBRIDS.

× Himalayan Goldfinch (Goldfinch).

◆

27.—SISKIN. *Spinus spinus.* **W.T.P.**.

HYBRIDS.

SISKIN × GREENFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × GOLDFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × TWITE. W.T.P.
,, × LINNET. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × SULPHUR SEED-EATER. W.T.P.
,, × ST. HELENA SEED-EATER. W.T.P.
,, × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale. "said to produce fertile offspring" (Vale).
,, × BULLFINCH. Vale.
,, × BLACK-HEADED SISKIN.
× Siskin (Goldfinch).
× Siskin (Twite).
× Siskin (Redpoll).
× Siskin (Green Singing Finch).
× Siskin (Canary).

◆

28.—CITRIL FINCH. *S. citrinellus.*

HYBRIDS.

CITRIL FINCH × CANARY.
"In evidence at the South Kensington Museum" (Vale).

◆

29.—RED SISKIN. *S. cucullatus.* **W.T.P.**

1st Amsler. 1912. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1912. 338.
Abroad. 1st Heer †Russ. "Easily bred" †Russ.

HYBRIDS.

RED SISKIN × CANARY. W.T.P. *

Commonly bred in the Canary Islands (E.H.).

◆

30.—SIKHIM SISKIN *S. tibetanus.*

HYBRIDS.

× Sikhim Siskin (Greenfinch).

◆

31.—BLACK-HEADED SISKIN. *S. ictericus.* **W.T.P.**

1st Teschemaker. 1911. See B.N. 1911. 238.
Abroad. 1st Kerfack †Russ.

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† Probably *Alario alario.*—W.T.P.

* In England by Capt. J. S. Reeve (1914)—ED.

HYBRIDS.

BLACK-HEADED SISKIN × SISKIN. W.T.P.

1st Aronstein. 1910. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1910. 363.

BLACK-HEADED SISKIN × CANARY. W.T.P. §

,, ,, × CAPE CANARY. W.T.P. †

This entry in Page's List probably refers to Russ' "Schwarzkopfige Zeisig X . . ." This is the German name of the Alario Finch. The same may apply to the preceding record also and affect its validity as well. (E.H.).

◆

32.—AMERICAN SISKIN. *Astragalinus tristis.*

HYBRIDS.

AMERICAN SISKIN × CANARY. W.T.P.

◆

33.—HIMALAYAN GREENFINCH. *Hypacanthis spinoides.*

1st Teschemaker. 1914. See B.N. 1914. 278., where the name used is "Sikhim Siskin. *C. spinoides.*"

◆

34.—TWITE. *Linaria flavirostris.* **W.T.P.**

HYBRIDS.

TWITE × GREENFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × GOLDFINCH. W.T.P.
,, × SISKIN. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.
× Twite (Siskin).
× Twite (Linnet).
× Twite (Redpoll).

◆

35.—LINNET. *L. cannabina.* **W.T.P.**

HYBRIDS.

LINNET × GREENFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × GOLDFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × TWITE. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × GREY SINGING FINCH. W.T.P.
,, × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × BULLFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × CUTTHROAT. *(Amadina fasciata). Ploceidae.*
Record: (Croker, 1914), B.N. 1915. 261.
× Linnet (Goldfinch).
× Linnet (Siskin).
× Linnet (Redpoll).
× Linnet (Grey Singing Finch).
× Linnet (Canary).

◆

To be continued.

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§ Refers to *S. ictericus.*—W.T.P.

† Probably *Alario alario.*—W.T.P.

The Mischievous Parrot.

We came across the following among some waste paper; the page was headed *Family Journal*—we reprint same with thanks to the Editor; it may prove an item of " lighter vein " in these serious times.—Ed. " B.N."

There was once an elderly lady whose only pet was a parrot. This had been brought home to her by her nephew, who was in the Royal Navy.

" He is a very clever chap, Aunt Mary," the young sailor had said, " we had no end of fun with him on board when we were coming home. Jellico (parrot's name) is as sharp as a needle, so mind you are careful not to use any bad language before him, or he will pick it up, and you will never hear the end of it."

" My dear Robert," exclaimed the old lady, lifting her eyes in horror, " I never use bad language! How can you suggest such a thing? Jellico (that was what the crew had christened him) will never hear anything but good from me."

" Ship ahoy! What-ho, she bumps! Let 'em all come!"

With his head cocked on one side, and a naughty twinkle in his eye, the parrot interrupted her.

" Don't you mind him, Aunt Mary," said her nephew. " It is only his way. The stokers have primed him up with a lot of slang, I am afraid, but he does not mean any harm by it, and I am sure he will soon learn his manners with you."

" We shall soon be the best of friends," she said hopefully. " And by the time you come ashore again I am sure that he will be quite a gentleman in his way of talking, as well as in everything else."

" Yuss, I don't fink!" said Jellico. But they pretended not to hear him.

Time went by, and it really did seem as if Jellico were turning over a new leaf, and forgetting some of the slang he had picked up on board ship, but he was a terrible mimic, and a terrible bird for hearing what he had no business to hear.

How he overheard the scolding Aunt Mary administered to Jane, the housemaid, no one knew, but he not only heard it—he heard Jane say to cook:

"I wish to goodness mistress could be changed into a scarecrow!"

Jellico thought this a huge joke, and he simply shouted it all over the house till Aunt Mary was in despair.

"I don't know what to do," she said to the vicar. "Whenever I ask my friends to tea he begins saying it, and nothing will stop him. What can I do?"

"I know, Miss Prichard," said the vicar, in his cheery way. "We will put my parrot with him for a bit. He will soon teach him something better."

So the vicar's bird, General Booth, came to stay with Jellico, and, to Aunt Mary's delight, they seemed to get on splendidly together.

"Our plan has been a great success, vicar," she said, when he came to call upon her at the end of a fortnight. "They are the best of friends, and I have not heard Jellico say anything naughty for nearly a week. Will you come in and see them? I know they will be glad to have a talk with you."

As they reached the dining room Jellico winked at General Booth, then, cocking his head, he said, in his loud, clear voice:

"I wish to goodness mistress could be changed into a scarecrow."

"For ever and ever. Amen!" said General Booth gravely.

"Oh!" cried Aunt Mary, in horror, and as for the vicar, he burst out laughing. "It's no good, Miss Prichard," he said. "They are too clever for us by far."

Members Sales and Exchanges and the Perpetuation of Species in our Aviaries.

The scheme suggested by the Marquis of Tavistock (*vide* February BIRD NOTES, page 45) is put in force for the use of members at once, and the measure of its success lies entirely with them. It should prove one of the most successful branches of the club's work, and out of it should grow the perpetuation of many species in our aviaries. A list of Club Breeders to date and the species they breed will be found in the pink inset, and the catalogue will follow as early as possible.

The conditions of the project are as under:

Club breeders to make themselves wholly or partly responsible for maintaining for sale to members of the F.B.C. one or more species of birds.

Names and addresses of breeders, and names of birds to appear free of charge in each issue of BIRD NOTES as long as the stock continues unsold, e.g.

Mr. A——Cockateels.
Mr. B——Zebra-finches.
Mrs. C——Avadavats.

Minimum prices to be fixed by club breeders in consultation with the Editor. Buyers able to afford to give the full (i.e. ordinary market) price of birds to the club breeders should make it a point of honour to do so.

Surplus stock, i.e. stock not claimed by members, after being on offer as long as the breeder is able to keep it, may be sold by the breeder at his own price to persons not members of the club.

Complaints with regard to stock sold by club breeders to be sent to the Editor, who shall, if he sees fit, mention the complaint to the breeder, without revealing the complainant's name, or in any way personally endorsing the complaint.

Club breeders found guilty of unfair and dishonest practices to be deprived of their membership of the F.B.C., no reason being given.

Members of the F.B.C. to make it a point of honour:—

(1) Always to buy from Club breeders, *only*, as long as they have stock for sale, unless a special reason exists for not doing so: e.g. when the Club breeder has not a bird of the right age or sex for sale, or only possesses one too nearly related to the buyer's stock.

(2) To become Club breeders themselves whenever possible.

(3) Not to buy stock from a Club breeder for sale at a profit to persons not members of the F.B.C.

Club breeders to make it a point of honour:—

(1) To sell nothing but sound first-class stock such as they would be willing to buy themselves.

(2) To make known to members buying from them any defect or vice in the birds they sell.

(3) To maintain a stock available for sale to members over as long a period of the year as possible.

(4) To sell their stock to members at the lowest price they can afford.

(5) Not to sell surplus stock, not required by members, to persons known to keep birds in a careless and inhumane fashion.

A catalogue should be issued annually to all members of the F.B.C., giving brief, useful particulars of species of birds kept by club breeders, the object being to inform members, especially new ones, of the advantages and drawbacks incident to keeping the species, and of the conditions necessary to success. Such particulars would be brief, description of size and plumage of bird (cock sufficient), food, ability to stand cold, readiness to breed, suitability or otherwise for cage life, disposition towards other birds, special diseases (if any), destructiveness to plants or woodwork (if any).

Members willing to be registered as Club Breeders should send in their names to the Editor as early as possible, so that a catalogue may be issued at the earliest possible date.

Correspondence.

MEMBERS' SALES AND EXCHANGES, AND PERPETUATION OF SPECIES IN OUR AVIARIES.

Sir,—I write to say that I think the Marquis of Tavistock's scheme is a very good one indeed.

Personally, my successes in breeding have been very modest, being limited for room, but if it would be of any help, I have two pairs of Cockateels that I have very reasonable hopes of breeding with this season; also five or six pairs of Budgerigars. All reared young last season, which were all sold to members of the club.

I shall be quite willing for you to include me in the list as a breeder of these two species.

I have other hopes, of course, but nothing sure enough to mention at present.

(Mrs.) ALICE CHATTERTON.

Sir,—In reference to the scheme proposed by the Marquis of Tavistock, I have a pair of Zebra Finches, from which I reared eleven young last season· they are now preparing to nest again, and I may reasonably hope for young to be reared. You may register me as a breeder of this species.

Liverpool, March 24th, 1918. P. J. CALVOCORESSI.

Sir,—I shall be pleased if you will enter my name on the proposed register as a breeder of :

Green, Blue bred Budgerigars,
Green Budgerigars,
Yellow Budgerigars,
Finest singing strain Roller Canaries.

Redland, Bristol, March 23rd, 1918. (Mrs.) M. BURGESS.

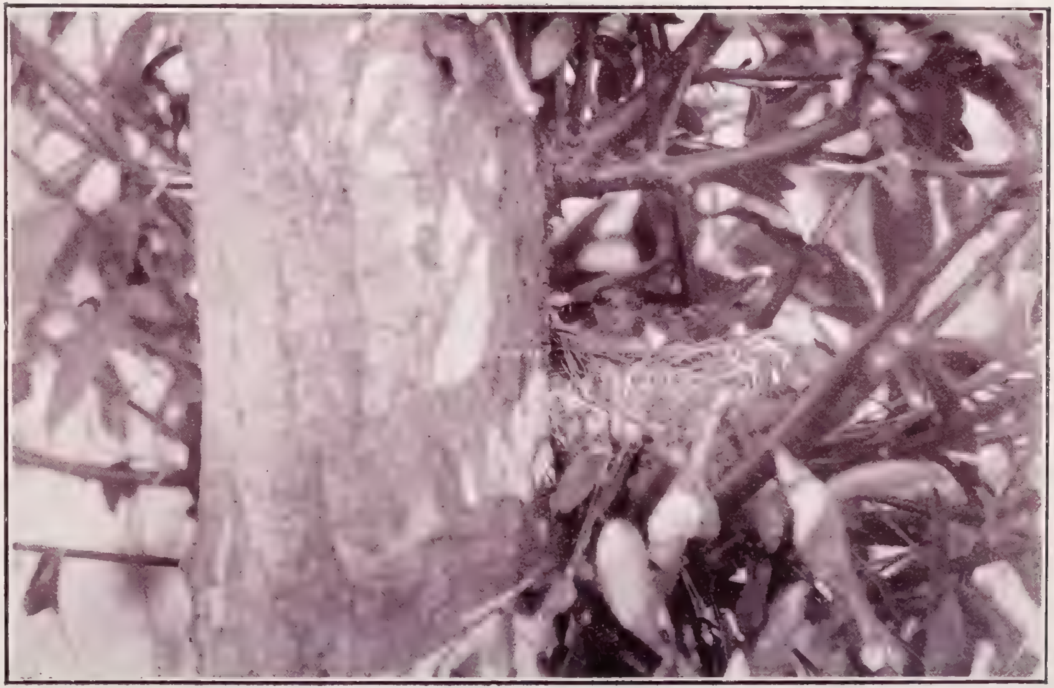

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Sulphury Seed-eater incubating.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Some Birds and their Nests in the Boyers House Aviaries.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

Now that the nesting season is again with us, these few notes of some of the happenings in my aviaries last season may perhaps be of interest; but I should certainly not have ventured to send them had I not known that so many of our members who were accustomed to write for BIRD NOTES were away at the war, as I feel that I have done my share the last year or two towards contributing to the reading matter in our Journal, and I am afraid that our readers may be getting " fed up " with my scribblings.

In spite of the fact that the number of the inmates of my aviaries was very much reduced at the beginning of last year, I still had a fairly successful season, inasmuch as I succeeded in breeding three different species for the first time in England viz:—the Green Fruit Pigeon, the White-cheeked Finch Lark and the Mexican Black-breasted Quail, accounts of which events have been published. In the case of the Fruit Pigeons, the young one that was reared turned out to be a cock, and he has since gone with his mother to America. The young Finch Lark was killed by another bird, so I am unable to give any particulars as to its change into adult plumage, but I hope that this year the old birds may again go to nest, and that the young ones may meet with no mishap. The young Mexican Quail are flourishing and will, I hope, rear a family this season.

The passerine birds were a complete failure, and not a single young one survived at the end of September. The Zebra Finches, usually so prolific, and of which species I turned out five pairs into five different aviaries, at the end of August hadn't raised a single young one between them. Two broods left the nest in September, but none of these survived.

My Sulphury Seed-eaters, which won me a medal in 1914 (B.N., N.S., Vol. V.) nested three times, but each time without success. The first time a female Silky Cowbird interfered with them. It was amusing to watch this large bird trying to squeeze herself into their small nest. Her efforts destroyed the Seed-eaters' eggs, but I would not have minded this had she deposited some of her own, so as to have given the Finches a chance of incubating, and this she did not do. I think that the Cowbird died eggbound some short time later than this, and I did not mourn her loss.

Another failure was with my Black Seed-finch, first bred by me in 1915 (B.N., Vol. VI., N.S.). Here the failure was due to my own carelessness in failing to mark the young birds of the preceding year. A friend wanted a pair, and when sending them, I must have included my old male. In cases where the sexes are alike, one cannot be too careful not to break up one's breeding pairs. I got a supposed cock from another of our members, but this also turned out to be a hen; the consequence was that I had numerous nests of infertile eggs.

Yet another failure was with my Sikhim Siskins. I turned out three pairs in different enclosures. In two of these the cocks were killed by other birds early in the year, and in the other, two young ones were hatched late in the season, which did not live to leave the nest.

(To be concluded).

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson. D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(Continued from page 95).

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58—9.

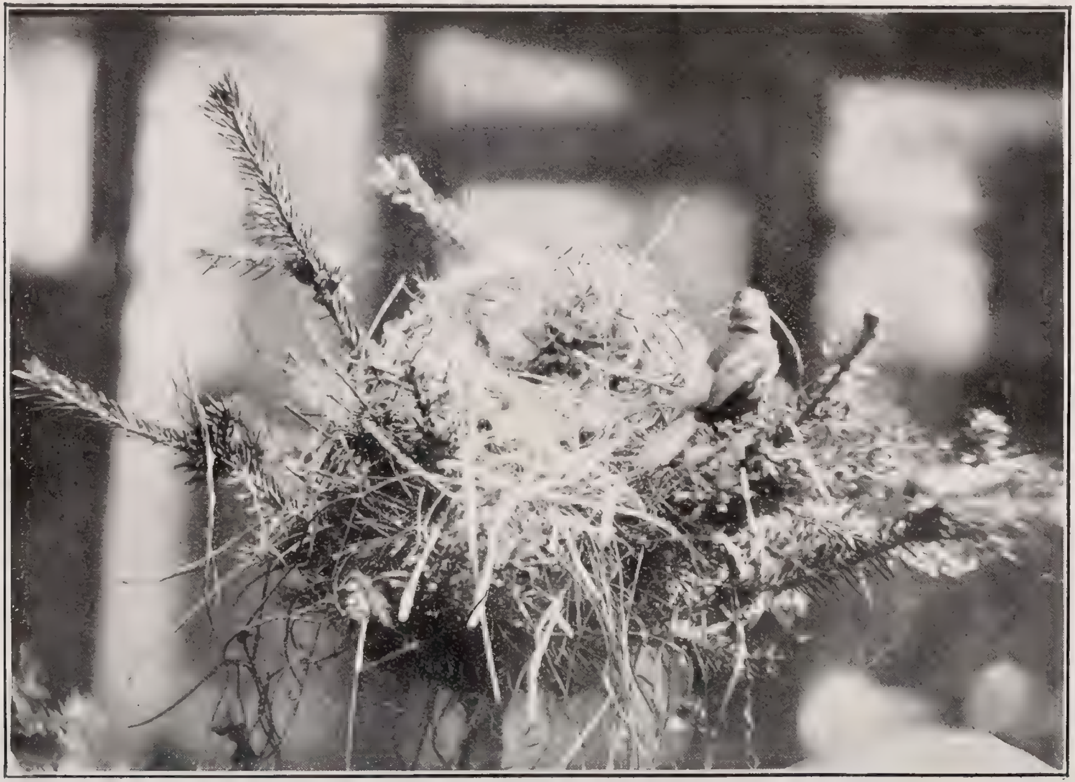
36.—MEALY REDPOLL. *L. linaria.* **W.T.P.**

1st Teschemaker, 1911. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1911. 238.

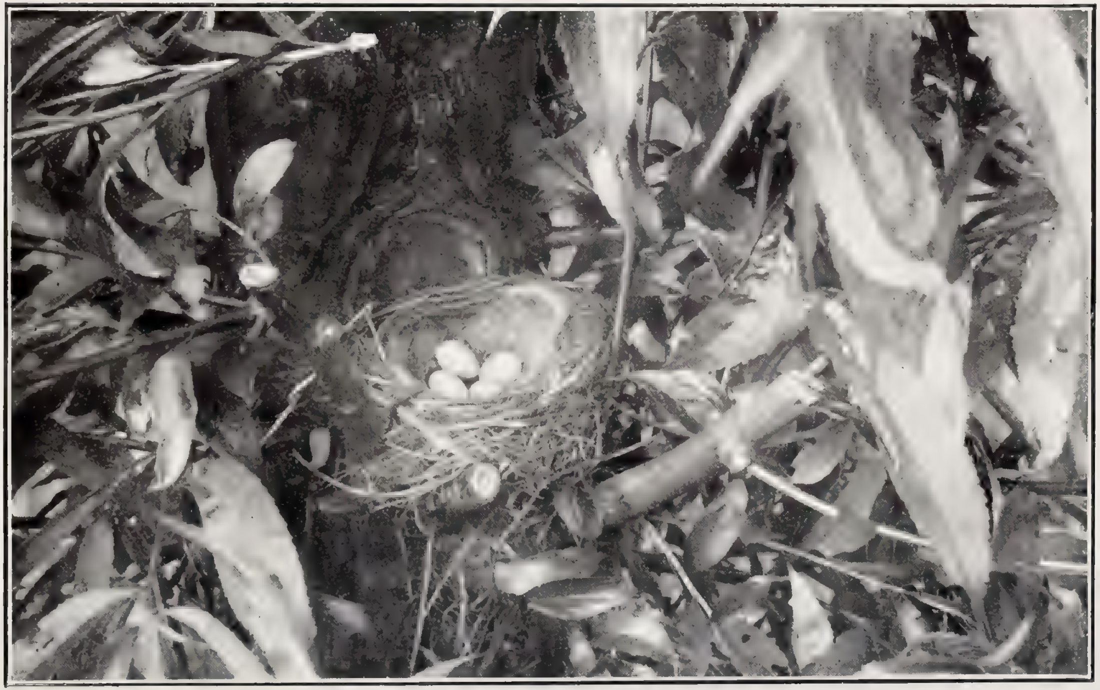
Hybrids.

MEALY REDPOLL × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.

" " × BULLFINCH. Vale.



Black Seedfinch Nest building.



Nest and Eggs of Sulphury Seed-eater,

37.—REDPOLL. *L. rufescens.* **W.T.P.**

For an account, see A.M. iii. 331.

HYBRIDS.

REDPOLL × GREENFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × GOLDFINCH. W.T.P.
,, × SISKIN. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × TWITE. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × LINNET. Vale. Almost certainly refers to a wild-bred case or cases. (E.H.).
,, × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.
,, × BULLFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.
× Redpoll (Goldfinch).

38.—DESERT BULLFINCH. *Erythrospiza githaginea*, or more accurately *amantium*, the Canary Islands race. **W.T.P.**

1st Meade-Waldo, 1897. †AGB. i. 98.
Abroad. Germany. 1st Bolle †Russ.

39.—LESSER ROCK-SPARROW. *Petronia dentata.*

Abroad. Germany; 1st Prince Coburg-Gotha. †Russ.

40.—TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus.* **W.T.P.**

HYBRIDS.

TREE SPARROW × HOUSE SPARROW. W.T.P. Vale. "Said to produce fertile offspring" †Vale.
,, × YELLOW SPARROW. W.T.P.
× Tree Sparrow (House Sparrow).
× Tree Sparrow (Yellow Sparrow).

41.—HOUSE SPARROW. *P. domesticus.* **W.T.P..**

HYBRIDS.

HOUSE SPARROW × TREE SPARROW. W.T.P.
,, × YELLOW SPARROW.
Abroad. By Prince Coburg-Gotha. †Russ.
× House Sparrow (Tree Sparrow).
× House Sparrow (Cape Sparrow).

42.—CINNAMON SPARROW. *P. cinnamomeus.* **W.T.P..**

1st Teschemaker, 1908. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (2) vii. p. 208, and B.N 1908. 128.

43.—CAPE SPARROW. *P. melanurus*, late *arcuatus.* **W.T.P.**

1st Seth Smith, 1901. A.S. Medal. A.M. vii. 165. 215.
Abroad. 1st Abraham (not the Patriarch) †Russ.

HYBRIDS.

CAPE SPARROW × YELLOW SPARROW. W.T.P.
1st Pennant, 1910. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1910. 364.
,, ,, × HOUSE SPARROW.
1st Shore Baily, 1916. See B.N. 1916. 20, and inset for February, 1917. (F.B.C. Medal).
× Cape Sparrow (Grey-headed Sparrow).

◆

44.—GREY-HEADED SPARROW. *P. diffusus*, or more probably *P. griseus*, the commonly imported West African species.
HYBRIDS.

GREY-HEADED SPARROW × CAPE SPARROW. W.T.P.
Rattigan. See B.N. 1912. 339, and 1913. 9.

◆

45.—YELLOW SPARROW. *Auripasser luteus*. **W.T.P.**.
1st Williams, 1904. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (N.S.) iii. p. 75.
Abroad. 1st Harris. †Russ. " Easily bred " (Russ).
HYBRIDS.

YELLOW SPARROW × TREE SPARROW. W.T.P.
× Yellow Sparrow (Tree Sparrow).
× Yellow Sparrow (House Sparrow).
× Yellow Sparrow (Cape Sparrow).

◆

46.—GOLDEN SPARROW. *A. euchlorus*.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.

◆

47.—ALARIO FINCH. *Alario alario*. **W.T.P.**
1st Fillmer. See B.N. ii. 29.
HYBRIDS.

ALARIO × GREY SINGING FINCH. W.T.P.
,, × CAPE CANARY.
Abroad †W.T.P. C. (? this way or vice-versa. E.H.).
,, × CANARY. W.T.P.
Vale. A.G.B. i. 109., and for an account of another success, see B.N. 1915. 291.
× Alario (Cape Canary).
× Alario (Green Singing Finch).

◆

48.—WHITE-THROATED SEED-EATER. *Poliospiza albigularis*.
HYBRIDS.
× White-throated S. (Sulphur Seedeater).

◆

49.—ANGOLA SINGING FINCH. *P. angolensis*. **W.T.P.**

1st Teschemaker, 1907. A.S. Medal. A.M. (n.s.). V. 198. Zoo, 1909. (1).
Abroad. 1st Franken †Russ.
Hybrids.

ANGOLA SINGING FINCH × CAPE CANARY. Abroad. †Russ.
× Angola Singing Finch (St. Helena Seed-eater).

◆

50.—GREY SINGING FINCH. *P. leucopygia*. **W.T.P.**

Bred by Erskine Allon. See A.M. iii. 147.
Abroad. 1st Dorpmuller †Russ.
Hybrids.

GREY SINGING FINCH × GREEN SINGING FINCH. W.T.P.
,, ,, ,, × LINNET. W.T.P. Vale.
,, ,, ,, × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.
× Grey Singing Finch. (Linnet).
× Grey Singing Finch. (Alario).
× Grey Singing Finch. (St. Helena Seedeater).
× Grey Singing Finch. (Green Singing Finch).

51.—CAPE CANARY. *Serinus canicollis*.

Hybrids.

CAPE CANARY × ALARIO.
A record in the A.M. (n.s.) iv. 134, but ? this way or vice-versa. (E.H.).
Abroad †W.T.P. C.

CAPE CANARY × ST. HELENA SEEDEATER. †A.G.B. i. 105.
,, ,, × CANARY. W.T.P. and see A.G.B. i. 105.
× Cape Canary (Black-headed Siskin). (?)
× Cape Canary (Alario).
× Cape Canary (Angola Singing Finch).

◆

52.—SULPHUR SEEDEATER. *S. sulphuratus*. **W.T.P.**

1st Shore Baily, 1914. B.N. 1915. 42. Its breeding in 1909 by Teschemaker (B.N. 1909. 228) was recorded as the first and the entry in Page's list referred to this event. Later it was found that what T. had bred were hybrids, Sulphur S. × White-throated Seedeater. See B.N. 1915 107.

Hybrids.

SULPHUR SEEDEATER × CANARY. W.T.P.
,, ,, × WHITE-THROATED SEEDEATER.
Teschemaker, 1909, see above.
× Sulphur Seedeater (Siskin).

◆

53.—ST. HELENA SEEDEATER. *S. flaviventris*. **W.T.P.**

See A.M. iv. 14.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ. "Easily bred" (Russ).
Hybrids.

ST. HELENA SEEDEATER × CANARY.
W.T.P. "said to have crossed with a hen Canary" (A.G.B. i. 106). For a recent record, see B.N. 1915. 206.
ST. HELENA SEEDEATER × GREY SINGING FINCH. W.T.P.
,, ,, ,, × ANGOLA SINGING FINCH.
1st Chawner, 1916. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. Feb. 1917. inset.
,, ,, ,, × SAFFRON FINCH. W.T.P.
× St. Helena Seedeater (Siskin).
× St. Helena S. (Cape Canary).
× St. Helena S. (Saffron Finch).

◆

54.—GREEN SINGING FINCH. *S. hartlaubi.* **W.T.P.**
Abroad 1st Russ †Russ. "easily bred" (Russ).
Hybrids.
GREEN SINGING FINCH × SISKIN. W.T.P.
,, ,, ,, × ALARIO. W.T.P.
,, ,, ,, × GREY SINGING FINCH. W.T.P.
,, ,, ,, × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.
× Green Singing Finch (Grey Singing Finch).
× Green Singing Finch (Serin Finch).

◆

55.—SERIN FINCH. *S. serinus.* **W.T.P.**
And see A.M. iv. 14.
Hybrids.
SERIN × GREEN SINGING FINCH. W.T.P.
,, × CANARY W.T.P. Vae. "said to produce fertile offspring" (Vale).

To be continued.

◆

Common Birds.

By Roland Quin.

Reprinted from "B.N.," November, 1901, page 29.

I think the average foreign-bird-keeper is too much given to the pursuit of the rare. He does not care to buy any species he has already possessed. Consequently, having run through the list of the kinds always obtainable, his choice is restricted to the rarer birds, and each year he buys rarer and rarer ones, until he can get nothing which he cares to have, except at a very high

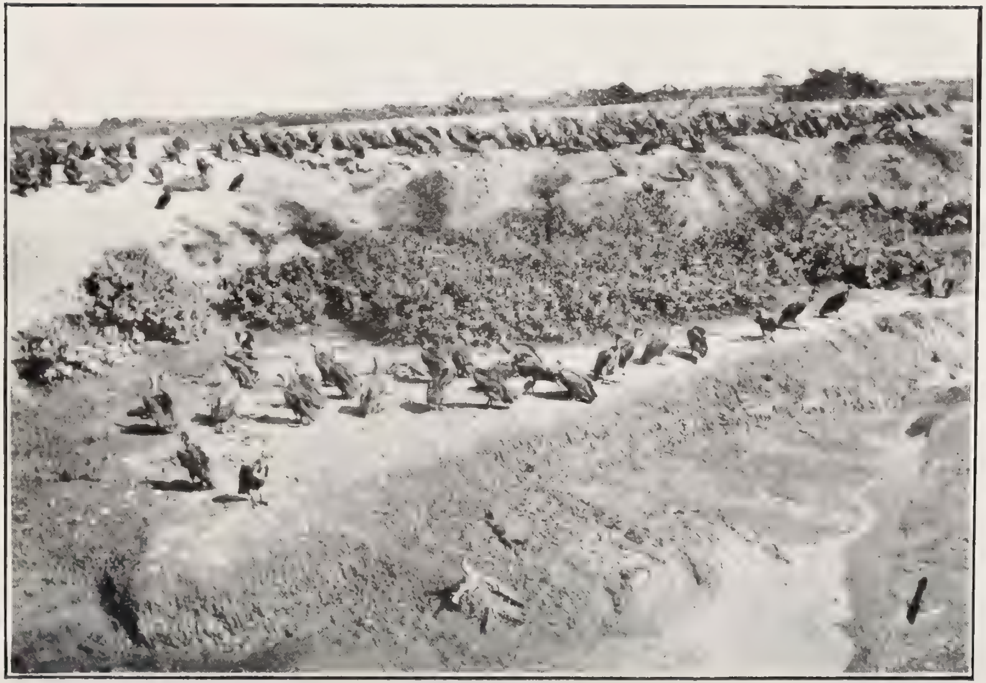


Photo E. W. Harper, F.Z.S.

Vultures near Calcutta.

price, and, finding his hobby getting too costly, gives it up in disgust. The mistake he makes is in fancying that he has exhausted the possibilities of a species by the possession for a few years of one or two examples.

There is not a single species which has yet been adequately studied. There is any amount of amusement and instruction to be extracted from careful observation of even the commonest bird. Let us take for example the Silverbill. Of this there are two species or varieties, the Indian and the African. Suppose the bird-keeper to purchase a dozen of the African (the common kind) and a few of the Indian. Let him keep some of them in an indoor aviary and some in an outdoor aviary all the year round, and some out-of-doors in summer and in-doors in the winter. Let him note under which conditions they thrive best. Let him experiment by feeding some on canary-seed alone, some on white millet seed alone, and some on spray or French millet alone, and some on two or more of these seeds. Let him endeavour to find some certain means of distinguishing the sexes. Let him observe their nesting habits under differing conditions. Let him try the effect of crossing the two kinds, and ascertain whether the progeny are fertile.* Let him try whether it be possible by careful selection to improve the size of the race, or perpetuate any interesting " sport " which may occur among his birds. These are a few of the things he may do with a dozen or two of Silverbills—one of the very commonest of imported foreign finches. Is there not plenty here to occupy the aviculturist for several years?

◆

Vultures near Calcutta.

By E. W. Harper, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

I am enclosing two snapshots I took a few weeks ago of vultures, about five miles outside Calcutta. The place is where all dead domestic animals from the city are taken. The bodies of horses and cattle are, after being skinned, converted into manure in a factory erected for the purpose; while those of dogs and cats are thrown away. It is upon these that the vultures feed. At the time of my visit there must have been between two and three hundred of these revolting birds—in fact there were so many that they could not all be got into the picture at once.

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* The Indian and African varieties of the Silverbill have been crossed several times, and we have found the young hybrids fertile, both when paired among themselves or with the species.—Ed.

In No. 1 photo the bird nearest the camera is a King or Pondicherry Vulture, and another of this species is a little way behind it; but all the rest are what Jerdon calls the Brown Vulture, and Blandford the Indian White-backed Vulture *(Pseudogyps bengalensis)*.

Not far away from the vultures, Pariah Kites, one or two pairs of Brahminy Kites, Crows, and a single pair of Adjutant Storks were to be seen.

[The above notes have been extracted from a personal letter dated February 8th, 1918.—Ed.]

◆ ◆ ◆

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Continued from page 67.

FRINGILLIDÆ. Possibly it will add to the value of these notes if I interpolate a few general remarks *re* breeding of finches, and proceed similarly with the later groups.

First I will remark that each aviarist must largely be his (or her) own " oracle " as to what species may be kept safely together, as the individualism of pairs, of the same species, is so varied that no general rule can be laid down upon this important point. For instance a pair, say of Red-crested Cardinals, may have proved quite safe in the general aviary of an aviculturist or *vice versa*, but this is by no means conclusive, as another pair of the same species may behave exactly opposite in some other aviculturist's aviary, though the general character of both aviaries may be similar. What, then, can the tyro take as a guide? Well, if there be a general consensus of opinion, either for amiability or pugnacity, among the various aviculturist writers, then such may be taken as a guide and followed, but the tyro must

Photo E. W. Harper, F.Z.S.

Vultures near Calcutta.

discriminate between those who are giving actual experiences, and those who are merely quoting a general reputation of any given species.

With the most careful selection trouble may follow; thus the occupants of any given aviary must be kept under close observation, especially at the commencement of and during the breeding season; for, during this period the demeanour of individual pairs changes considerably, the erstwhile peaceful become pugnacious and even murderous. However, things soon find a level, and though the persistent bully must be removed, at the same time natural and reasonable contention must not be mistaken for unforgivable pugnacity.

Proper discrimination upon these and similar points often means the difference between failure and success—the tyro too, must use a similar care when reading of others' experiences-locality, size and furnishing of the aviary, have a large bearing upon the results obtained—thus the experience given stands upon such conditions, and a similar result may not be achieved if these be seriously departed from. Thus if a given species be described as pugnacious, this can only be taken as being their demeanour under the conditions given which form (or should do so) the context of *pugnacious or amiable* as the case may be. My meaning should be clear, without further explanation, but the correspondence section of our Journal is open for the discussion of such topics. Continuous alertness has checked many a threatened disaster.

The dietary at this period should be the usual seeds, insectile mixture, ripe fruit and live insects—the latter is important, for upon its judicious supply success or failure with many species depends.

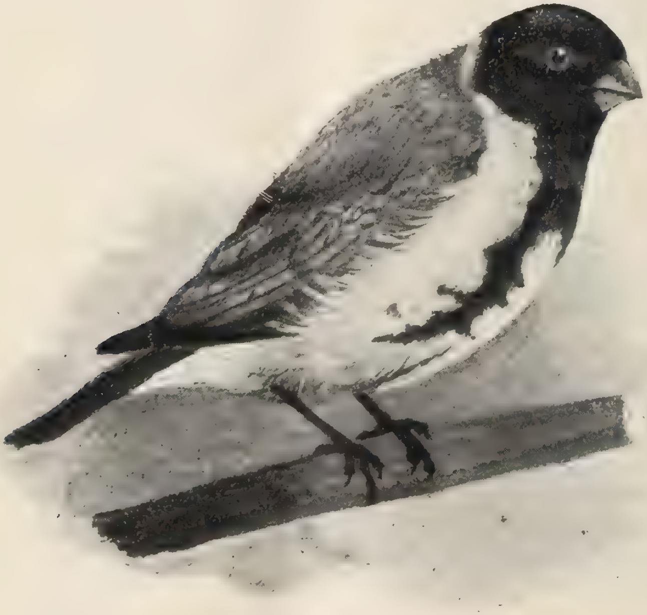
A roomy aviary, naturally planted and arranged, will make success more probable, as under such conditions the birds capture a certain amount of live-food; and also obtain that exercise, which is almost indispensable to full breeding fitness.

To enlarge further would be to go outside the scope of this paper; other details will be given when dealing with the separate species.

I had better remind new readers that this serial commenced in BIRD NOTES of January, 1916, and a list was given of the species which the writer had kept at various times—marked up to indicate their *endurance*, under the three headings, viz: out of doors all the year round—out of doors spring, summer and early autumn only—kept indoors all the year round. And it is of the species given in the list, not all species of birds, that some indication, by request, as to their readiness to reproduce their kind in captivity is also given.

ALARIO FINCH (*Alario alario*). Not a brilliantly coloured species, but a very pleasing one; the colouration of its plumage were it not for its serin-like contour, might cause one to take it for a mannikin.

Adult male. Head, throat, and stripe bordering breast and abdomen black; back, wings (excepting flights which are black) and tail cinnamon brown; remainder of underparts white; beak black.



Alario Finch.

Female. To some extent a washed out replica of the male, but lacking entirely his sharp and pleasing contrasts. Her general colouration is greyish brown, washed with cinnamon on the upper parts. She is smaller than the male and has a quiet demure beauty of her own.

Nestling plumage. Resembles that of the female.

I have found this species quite hardy in a roomy, naturally planted garden aviary with a good shelter-shed attached thereto. It has proved ready to go to nest with me, the main difficulty being that very few hens are imported, and not many aviculturists have possessed pairs. It pairs readily with the domestic canary, but most of the resulting hybrids are not so pleasing as the species; however, the males are good songsters, which is also the case with the pure Mario. The majority in captivity usually choose a box of some kind as a foundation for their nest, but I had one nest, from which young emerged, built in a privet bush, about 3 ft. above the ground; it was a fairly neat cup-shaped structure a typical serin nest. A second clutch of eggs in the same nest were washed out during a violent thunderstorm. Another nest was immediately built in a box hanging in the shelter, but the hen died with her second egg.

The young were mainly reared on seed and greenfood, but the parents were very keen on mealworms and captured a good many flies in the aviary.

Pretty, amiable, and a sweet songster; submits to no aggression from any other occupant of the aviary.

AURORA FINCH *(Pytelia phoenicoptera).* A very beautiful species; fairly hardy, but it should be taken indoors for the winter months. It has not proved a free breeder in captivity, and successful cases are isolated indeed. A nest was built in a large elder-bush in my aviary, from which one young bird emerged and though it lived for some weeks after it was able to fend for itself, it did not live long enough to moult into mature plumage. I can give no nesting data, as I only discovered the nest, 10 in. above the ground, the day before the young one made its exit.

Description. Grey, finely barred with darker grey, washed with reddish on the back; flights and tail crimson; beak black.

BULLFINCH *(Pyrrhula europaea).* When I kept British species I was sucessful in breeding quite a few of this, one of the showiest of our indigenous species.

Many years ago I kept this and other British species in roomy cages, small aviaries, and a little later in larger ones, but have not kept the species for twelve years or more. I successfully bred them under all the above mentioned conditions—at first there were many failures, and success was only finally obtained by supplying them with *fresh* wild seeds, buds, and unlimited greenfood—by *fresh* wild seed I mean gathering stems of the weeds in seed, tying them in bunches and hanging them up in any convenient position. Greenfood was also gathered so that the various kinds had flower buds, flowers and seeds, and was supplied fresh thrice daily. After this stage was reached my three pairs bred freely, and without other trouble reared most of the young hatched out.

The chief difficulty with this beautiful species is its fondness for buds, and unless large bunches of twiggy branches are kept continuously in the aviary, deciduous trees and bushes planted therein have a very short life, and even with the above precaution such bushes do not flourish, but merely exist—common laurel, Portugal laurel, aucuba and spruce fir resist their attacks as well as any.

This beautiful species is hardy, providing the shelter attached to the aviary is dry and draught-proof, and the aviary large enough to allow of reasonable exercise.

BICHENO'S FINCH *(Stictoptera bichenovii)*. I have written of this species recently, *vide* BIRD NOTES, December, 1917, page 253, and must refer my readers thereto. It cannot be called a robust species, but in a dry locality (gravel district) it can be wintered out of doors. Hens are very subject to "egg binding," especially during a wet cool summer. They will pass the winter comfortably in an unheated, well ventilated birdroom.

BIB FINCH *(Spermestes nana)*. This is a charming and diminutive species, very little, if any, larger than an avadavat. Hardy, but if the locality is a damp one, with wet retentive soil, it had better be taken into the birdroom for the winter months but if this convenience be not available, the majority will survive out of doors, even in a damp locality, but every effort should be made to prevent early nesting under such conditions.

These wee Mannikins are not brilliantly coloured, but are a charming species for the mixed aviary, being nearly always "in the picture," not combative, yet well able to look after themselves in almost any company—the latter, in the writer's opinion, being a very desirable and interesting attribute.

Most pairs are fairly free breeders, and the young are readily reared on the usual hard-bill *menu*. Nevertheless, some live insect food is desirable, making success more certain and their progeny vigorous and robust.

(To be continued).

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Breeding the Spice Finch, Etc.

By Lady Dunleath.

Reprinted from "B.N.," December, 1901, page 52.

I have had my pair of Spice Birds *(Munia punctulata)* for some years—since 1896, I think. In May of last year I turned all my birds out into a new outdoor aviary which I had made.

In No. 1 Division I have Canaries, Ribbon Finches, Whydahs, Zebra Finches, Waxbills, Avadavats, Nuns, Bengalese, Parson Finches, Saffron Finches, Bullfinches, Cockateels, Java Doves, Cordon Bleus, Spice Birds, Nicobar Pigeons, and one Scarlet Tanager, one Superb Tanager, one Fontonegra and one Mountain Finch, altogether 130 birds. Before I went to Scotland this autumn I had only one pair of Spice Birds, and I noticed one of them sitting in a travelling box-cage which was hung inside the aviary cottage, from the roof by a long wire (to prevent mice from getting at the nest). I went away at the beginning of August, and on returning at the end of September I found two young Spice Birds flying about, with fluff still on their heads. They are now a beautiful rich brown, and more clearly marked than their parents.

I also reared three Cordon Bleus, and they were fully fledged and flying about when I left home, but when I returned I could only see the parents.

The great storm of wind and rain about the middle of November killed, I am sorry to say, my Superb Tanager, my hen Cordon Bleu, two Pekin Robins, one Golden-breasted Waxbill, and my Blue-winged Lovebirds -but all the rest look well. The only bird I have taken in for the winter is the Scarlet Tanager - I got him last November, and he has been out since May.

The second Division of my aviary contains Pekin Robins, Indigo Buntings, Weavers, Green Singing Finches, Nonpareils, two Teal, Virginian Cardinals, Pope Cardinals, one each Rosella, Halfmoon, Indian Ring-necked, and Red rumped Parrakeets, and Zebra Doves—26 birds in all. I am now enlarging the aviary and making a third division for the Virginian and Pope Cardinals.

The only heat is from a small oil-stove and an oil-lamp, which are lighted at four o'clock in the afternoon and kept burning all night. Since having the stove I have lost no small birds. The temperature goes down to 32 deg., and is never in winter above 50 deg. This is the second winter for nearly all the birds. I shut them in at night and on a very wet day. I had, in the Spring, nine Zebra Finches and now have thirty-two, twenty-three having been successfully reared.

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Parrots.

By W. Shore Baily.

AUSTRALIAN: Under this heading I am sending you a few notes as to the suitability for aviary life of the various Parrots, Parrakeets Conures and Lovebirds that I have kept from time to time with a few remarks on sexing them.

With the exception of the little Budgerigar, the Australian Broadtails seem to be far the most popular amongst our aviculturists, and in my view quite rightly so, as they are extremely beautiful, and are free breeders in captivity without being niosy like their American and Indian cousins. They are, of course, more or less dangerous in the breeding season to other birds, but not more so than the other Parrots.

THE RED ROSELLA *(Platycercus eximius)* is the one most frequently kept, and it is, I think, the handsomest of the group, but amongst so many lovely varieties, this is a matter of individual taste. The sexes are alike, or nearly so, the male being rather heavier in build with a larger head. A good deal has been written about sexing these birds. At one time it was thought that all hens had a green spot at the back of the head. Whilst it is true that some hens have this distinction, I have had several that were quite as red-headed as the cocks. On the other hand, I have never had a male with the nape green. Another supposed difference was pointed out by our member, Dr. Lovell-Keays. He states in B.N. Vol. v. New Series that all hens are barred on the under-wing-coverts, and that the cocks are not. This may be true of adults, but I don't think that it is with the young ones, as the last time I reared any number of them, I took particular notice of this and found that all the young ones had barred under-wing-coverts.* Of course, when you have a breeding pair it is quite easy to distinguish the cock from the hen. The difficulty arises when you have a single bird to sex and no others to compare it with. One of my hens is a very brilliantly coloured bird, and if put with a number of young birds, say under one year old, would be almost certain to be picked out as a cock, even by an expert.

THE PENNANT *(P. elegans)* is another lovely Broadtail. In this case the hen is distinctly smaller than the cock, her head markedly so. A good many years ago, some rather lively correspondence occurred in the *Avicultural Magazine* on the sexing of these Parrots. That very successful aviculturist, Mr. Farrar, laid down some very definite rules for picking out the sexes, based on his observation of some young birds he had bred. But it was afterwards proved that his young ones were hybrids between the Pennant and the closely allied Adelaide *(P. adeladiae)*. Although I have had two or three pairs I have not succeeded in breeding them.

THE MEALLY ROSELLA *(P. pallidiceps)* is a contrast in colour to the last species, but is equally attractive. Although frequently imported it is not so easy to secure true pairs. I have only had odd birds. Once I had a very good breeding hen, that nested several times, but having no male with her, of course their was no result. At the present time I have two cocks and no hens. From one of these I have bred some hybrids from a Red Rosella. These in their young bird plumage are indistinguishable from the common kind. I am mating a young cock with a hen Rosella, and hope that he will not prove sterile.

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* The young of many species resemble the adult female and this is the case with the Rosella.—Ed.

THE BLUE BONNET *(Psephotus haematorrhous)* is a smaller bird. There are two kinds, the red-vented and the yellow-vented. I have kept the former. They are not so attractive as the species already mentioned, and do not appear to be so easily bred. Moreover, being very active they are much more dangerous with small birds, such as Finches, Weavers, etc., and if kept should have an aviary to themselves, and in fact this is really the best course with all the smaller Parrots, if spare room is available. The female is slightly smaller and duller in colour than the male.

THE STANLEY PARRAKEET *(Platycercus icterotis)* may be described as a small edition of the Red Rosella, which it very much resembles in general appearance, although its colours are not so brilliant. It appears to be a free breeder. I have only had my pair a few months, so cannot write much about them. The hen is easily picked out, as she has far less red in her plumage.

THE RED-RUMP *(Psephotus haematonotus)* is another little Parrakeet in which the sexes differ markedly. They are also very free breeders, and will bring up their young in a large cage. I have never reared any of them in my aviaries, as I found them so extremely quarrelsome, that I did not keep them long.

THE YELLOW-NAPED PARRAKEET *(Barnardius semitorquatus)* is another Australian but it belongs to a different group. It has much more green about it, than any of those already noted. My birds were, I believe, two hens, as I frequently saw them asking a cock Meally to feed them, which he rather reluctantly did. In their habits they are similar to the *platycercinae*, and would, I should think, be equally free breeders.

THE COCKATEEL *(Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiae)* is perhaps the best known of all the Australian Parrots, and it is one of the most charming. If a good breeding pair is obtained they will bring up two or more families regularly every season. Care, however, should be taken to see that they do not go to nest too early in the season, as the hens are liable to egg-binding. The cock has a rather pleasant little song, and he makes a better cage bird than any other of the Antipodean Parrakeets. They appear to take little notice of the smaller birds, but in the breeding season are aggressive with other Parrots.

To be continued.

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Hints for Beginners.

By Horatio R. Fillmer.

Reprinted from "B.N.," October, 1901, page 14.

It is quite true that foreign cage-birds are very delicate, and it is equally true that they are very hardy. These statements seem absolutely contradictory, but they are not. Foreign birds, *when newly imported*, are delicate, and in the case of some species the percentage of deaths is high. On the other hand, those which have survived for some months after importation are generally hardy, often hardier than our native birds. The beginner often invests in a few newly imported Waxbills, which have been taken out of a warm bird-shop, through the cold of an English March, and turns them into an all-wire cage in a draughty window. Within a fortnight half of them are dead. and the owner is disgusted with the "delicacy" of foreign birds. If he had been able to secure acclimatized specimens (and willing to pay a consequent higher price) he would have had fewer losses than with the same number of Goldfinches or Bullfinches.

On the whole there is nothing like sand for the bottoms of cages and aviaries—not only in the case of seed-eaters, but for soft-food birds. For Lorikeets and Lories something more absorbent, such as sawdust or peat-litter, is required, and also for Toucans and other large soft-bills. But for small fruit-eating and insect-eating birds, sand is the best. I generally use common builders' sand, and for seed-eaters throw in on the top a handful of fine flint grit, such as is sold for young chickens. Newly imported birds are better at first without grit, which should be given to them cautiously in very small quantities and in the form of rough sea-sand. The reason for this is that the birds have been kept without grit for months, and their internal organs have become soft and liable to be punctured by sharp flint.

I have always been an advocate for giving the smaller birds a feed by artificial light in long winter evenings. Some people have emphatically denied the utility of this. I do not know that I, or anyone else, ever asserted it to be essential to the life or well-being of the birds but I do assert it to be an aid in keeping them in health through the winter. My usual plan is to turn on an incandescent gas-light in the bird room for a quarter-of-an-hour or so about nine o'clock. When I turn it out I leave a smaller light burning for a time to enable the birds to find their perches.

In the feeding of soft-billed birds, I really think the *consistency* of the food is quite as important as the materials of which it is composed. Birds will not thrive on a pasty mess, however rich it may be in ants' ggs and other good things. I believe this is the reason why birds often thrive better on one of the advertised foods sold in tins than they do on home-made food, although the bought food may contain a large proportion of German paste, crushed hemp, and other things of more than doubtful digestibility. It is never wise to moisten food by the addition of water, as one is very apt to make it too wet. It is far better to soften it by the addition of boiled potato or grated carrot though I much prefer lard or dripping for the purpose. If you use potato or carrot, you must be careful to throw away the leavings from the previous day's feeding, and to put the fresh food in a clean pan. But the food mixed with grease will keep good for weeks.

Some people imagine that if a bird be fat it must be in good health, and that the fatness is a proof that it has been fed on suitable food. Fatness is no more sign of health in a bird than in a man--and our aim should be to keep our birds in good condition but *not* fat. A fat bird is seldom healthy, and always liable to go off in a fit. In the case of soft-billed birds excessive fatness is often caused by feeding on bread and other farinaceous food.

Native Notes.

By J. Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

[Extracts from cuttings (per Mr. F. Howe) from the New Zealand press—Ed.]

Mutton Birds: The ancient art of mutton-birding still is popular with Maoris of the southern part of New Zealand. Many of them now are living on the islets off the coast of Stewart Island, making the annual toll of the thousands of petrels that burrow in the soft soil there. ' Years ago mutton-birding at the proper season was common in nearly all parts of this country where Maori settlements had been established, but, so far as I know, it is less popular in the North Island than formerly. In any case, modern appliances and ideas have improved upon the ancient methods, and a letter from Mr. J. A. Brooking, of Te Araroa, close to the Awatere River, south of the East Cape, supplying an account of his first expreiences with mutton-birders 60 years ago, has an historical, as well as ornithological, value. In 1857, when he was a lad of 15, he lived with his foster-parents in a wild and isolated part of Hawke's Bay. European strangers seldom were seen there, but at a certain season of the year parties of Maoris came from a settlement near Taupo, some 60 miles away, and took up their abode in a large slab shed close to the house. They stayed there for about six weeks in order to kill and preserve mutton-birds, or, as they called them, titi. They brought with them five or six large gourds. They also had an old-fashioned iron crock. This was used for rendering the fat and cooking the flesh. Before this was done all the bones were extracted. When the flesh was sufficiently cooked it was allowed to cool, and then was packed tightly in the gourds, each gourd holding the flesh of about 100 birds. The melted fat was poured in, covering the flesh and filling up the crevices. The mouth of the gourd was then plugged tightly, and the food was ready to be sent to Taupo.

The homestead was in a wide valley, about 1500 ft. above sea level. This valley runs back, with few interruptions, 15 or 16 miles to the mountain In front of the homestead site the land declines gradually to the coast of the bay, which is in a straight line, about 35 miles distant. Close to the homestead site there is a small conical hill, with a flat top, about one chain across. The hill was known as Puke-titi—the titi hill—and the Maoris stated that it was a celebrated place for the slaughter of titi, and had had its reputation for many generations. The valley, apparently, was in the direct course followed by the birds in their flights from the sea to the mountains. They flew over the homestead in hundreds, always about an hour after dark, some of them making a peculiar laughing sound. The Maoris believed that these noisy birds were the leaders, and that they uttered their call-notes in order to keep the flocks together. On the first dark, cloudy night after the Maoris's arrival Mr. Brooking was invited to take part in the killing, and he set out with a party of nine for the titi hill. Seven of the Maoris carried well-dried firewood. Each had a light pole about 9ft. long, a weapon with which Mr. Brooking also was armed.

One Maori carried the titi net. This was made of flax. It was about 12ft. long and 6ft. wide, and had a mesh of about 3in. Each end of the net was attached to a pole about 12ft. long. The top of the hill was reached about half an hour after dark. A fire was lighted, all the wood was piled on it, and soon there was a roaring blaze. Two Maoris raised the net by means of the poles, holding them upright four yards behind the fire. Another Maori sat on his knees, with his pole in his hand, on the right front of the net. Other members of the party sat three on each side of the fire, each about 6ft. from his neighbour. It could not have been more than 10 minutes after the completion of the arrangements when the first signal of the birds' approach was heard. This was a discordant laugh, repeated by members of the flock, until the sound was lost in the rear. Two of the leaders rushed headlong into the fire, scattering the embers in all directions. Others flung them to the ground, where they were quickly killed by the man on his knees. Members of the party stationed on each side of the fire in the meantime knocked down birds with their poles.

The excitement continued for only a few minutes. The titi had passed on their way to the mountains. "The fun's all over," Mr. Brooking said to his neighbour. "Oh, no," he replied; "that was only the advance guard; the matua—main body—will be down on us soon." They had hardly ceased speaking when they again heard the laughing notes of hundreds of petrels. The birds came in scores, with a force as if they had been shot from guns. The netting swayed backward with the impact. The Maori on his knees in front was kept busy killing birds as they were flung back. The other fowlers did their part. The fire was at its height, lighting up the darkness for a score of yards around; then about a dozen birds flew into it, scattering the burning wood so that the fire was partially put out. At the same time the Maori on the right received a knock from a bird that struck him on the forehead; if it had flown 3in. lower its bill probably would have caused serious injury. That ended the first night's sport. The rearguard—the hunuru or camp-followers, as the Maoris called them—were allowed to pass unmolested. One hundred and three titi were slain that night, and on the other side only one man was wounded. The time from leaving the house to the return to it was slightly less than an hour.

Mr. Brooking states that Maoris killed the mutton-birds only on very dark, cloudy nights, preferably when there was drizzling rain. The particular species of petrel he refers to is described by him as "a bird marked distinctly with black and white, about the size of a wood-pigeon, plump, rather short of wing, but exceedingly strong and fast in flight." This evidently is Cook's petrel *(Æstrelata cooki)*, but the Maoris seem to use the word "titi" for several species of petrels, all of which were caught and preserved in the same way. Amongst these is the black petrel *(Majaqueus parkinsoni)*, but Mr. Brooking maintains that this is not the true titi. He supples the Maori name of this bird as "te kuia." This is used also for still another mutton-bird, the brown petrel, which is grey above and white below. The cry of this bird has been described by some observers as like the bleating of a lamb. It belongs to the Southern Ocean, and is very common at sea from May to August, but retires to breed in September or October. It is the best diver of all the sea-going petrels. The black petrel has at least two Maori names in addition to the one mentioned by Mr. Brooking, namely, taonui and taiko. He states that is salted and is sold in large quantities as titi, being taken from many small islands, on some of which it breeds in thousands. He has known Maori boats bring away many thousands in one season from White Island, in the Bay of Plenty, alone. Two years ago he saw one boat bring from White Island to a comparatively small settlement no fewer than 900 black petrels. He states also that Maoris pull them out of their burrows, and while they are still alive make a slit in the neck and tear out the crop. It is believed that unless this is done, the birds, two hours after death, will be unfit to eat.

BELL BIRDS: A Christchurch resident, who recently spent a few days at Aicken's, some eight miles west of Otira, reports that bellbirds there were very plentiful and very tame. They came in large numbers into trees close to the house, and were in evidence also in the forest. On one occasion he heard a fairly large number taking part in a chorus, the different notes harmonising well. The songsters were in good plumage and were a notable feature of wild life. Amongst other birds seen in the district were tomtits, which were characteristically friendly to visitors, and white-eyes. At night the notes of many moreporks were heard from the recesses of the forests, showing that these birds are also plentiful in the ditrict. Mr. W. Mansell, Cashmere Hills, near Christchurch, states that bellbirds regularly visit a homestead at Puketohu, Middle Valley, about ten miles from Fairlie. They are heard there most frequently in spring and autumn months, and usually visit the homestead about 10 a.m. and in the afternoon. The notes are delightfully liquid. Mr. G. Simpson, of Christchurch, states that about seven years ago, when he made a bicycle journey in the northern part of the South Island, the members of his party saw and heard surprisingly large numbers of bellbirds in the Buller Gorge. The travellers sometimes rested under trees on the road, and gave themselves up to the pleasure of listening to the ringing notes, and of watching the graceful birds amongst the foliage.

To be continued.

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Correspondence.

BREEDING NOTES IN 1915.

Sir,—I am sending these few notes in response to your request for copy. In 1915 I had pretty good luck as regards breeding, especially so considering the crowd of birds I had in my largest aviary, which is only 15ft. long. In 1914 I had intended to build a large aviary when the autumn and winter months came along, but, of course, the "great upheaval" upset that idea. Anyhow I fixed up a few husks, barrels and boxes in the aviary and trusted to luck. This aviary measures 15ft. long, 5ft. wide and 7ft. high; one end for three feet is entirely covered, but has three windows; the other end for three feet is also covered in; the open part is partly covered with a roof about two feet wide—this allows the birds to get either sun or shade.

In this aviary I had:—

1 pair Rosella Parrakeets (reared young).

1 pair Cockateels (reared young).

1 pair Madagascar Lovebirds (reared young).

7 pairs Budgerigars (reared about 25 young).

1 pair Blue-winged Lovebirds (Passerine Parrakeets), these did not nest, but spent the most part of their time inspecting the contents of the various nests, which the various owners did not seem to mind, except the Budgerigars.

All went well, until one of the hen Budgerigars ran amok and killed another hen and the young in three Budgerigar nests!

Of course I had to remove all the young as soon as they could fend for themselves.

This season I have had to give the aviary up to the Rosellas, as the cock bird turned very nasty, although previously he has been very docile and has never molested any bird before, not even small finches; the reason may be that he has a new mate, his former mate dying of old age last summer. One season I had Budgerigars, Ribbon and Zebra Finches in the aviary with this Rosella and his old mate—they all reared young and there was no quarelling, so, I think, the cock Rosella is upset at the loss of his old partner.

It was very interesting to watch the Madagascar Lovebirds carrying material to their nests; they built in two barrels and one husk before they settled down—eventually the hen laid in one of the largest barrels, and a brood of young were successfully reared.

I think the Marquis of Tavistock's scheme a very good one, and I am looking forward to the time (when I have been able to collect a few birds and house them decently—when materials are procurable) that I shall be in a position to place my name on the List of Club Breeders—I have been serving with the colours, but am now discharged.

Streetly, April 30th, 1918. J. E. HAWKINS.

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HYBRID GREENFINCH × ROSEFINCH.
RECORDS OF BIRDS WHICH HAVE BRED IN CAPTIVITY.

Sir,—As Dr. Hopkinson asks that members should enable him to make the above list as complete as possible, by forwarding particulars of any cases omitted, perhaps I may be allowed to draw his attention to a greenfinch × Siberian rosefinch cross which is not included. An account of the occurrence will be found in B.N. for 1916, pp. 206 and 256. Though the evidence was then stated to be not quite explicit enough, an inspection of the skin of the hybrid (which was unfortunately subsequently killed by another bird) satisfied the Committee, and a medal was awarded. (See B.N. 1916, pages 206, 256 and 1917 pink inset, pages 22 and 31.

I am
Yours faithfully,
Inveresk, Midlothian, March 22, 1918. M. R. TOMLINSON.

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ARRIVAL OF SPRING MIGRANTS.

The accompanying table shows that our visitors this spring were rather later than usual in arriving on our shores (Essex). This, no doubt, was owing to the bleak, not to say severe, weather prevailing in April till quite the end of the month.

Cuckoo. 24-4-'18, 8 a.m., wind N.W., T. (Thermometer) 32. Among my records for 26 years the only later dates are 28-4-'03, 28-4-'06, 25-4-'03, 25-4-'10, 30-4-'15.

Chiffchaff. 24-4-'18, 9 a.m., wind N.W., T. (32). In 26 years he arrived later only in '89, '92, '96, '06, '17.

Tree Pipit. 24-4-'18, 5 p.m., wind N.W., T. (42). In 10 years I have five earlier dates, viz: 20-4-'02, 14-4-'10, 21-4-'12, 22-4-'13, 12-4-'14, whilst in 1917 he did'nt arrive till May 5th.

Swallow. 27-4-'18, 11 a.m., wind N., T. (40). Arrived on same date in '92 and '02. Only one later date in 29 years, viz: 28-4-'08.

Nightingale. 2-5-'18, 3 a.m., wind N. This is the latest date in 25 years. The two latest previously are 28-4-'03 and 28-4-'06.

GARDEN WARBLER. 4-5-'18, 1 p.m., wind W., T. (52). Last year he arrived a day later.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. 6-5-'18, 2 p.m., wind W., T. (52). The only earlier date in 5 years is 4-5-'17.

REDSTART. 6-5-'18, 2 p.m., wind W., T. (52). Later dates in 11 years are 10-5-'05, 9-5-'08, 7-5-'13. The earliest is 5-4-'07.

LANDRAIL. 8-5-'18, 9 p.m., wind W., T. (40). This is a little later than usual.

BLACKCAP. 9-5-'18, 11 a.m., wind W., T. (50). I have no later date than this in ten years, but the date was the same in '09 and '17. My earliest date is 14-4-'14.

LESSER WHITE-THROAT. 9-5-'18, 11 a.m., wind W. T. (50). This is about the usual time, but I fear my records of the two species are rather mixed. My earliest date is 19-4-'05.

SWIFT. 9-5-'18., 1 p.m., wind W., T. (50). My records are all in the beginnig of May, 6-5-'07 being the earliest.

G. H. RAYNOR,
Hazeleigh Rectory, 9-5-'18.

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I have been unable to watch for the Spring migrants this season, but I heard and saw the "Harbinger of Spring" for the first time this year, on April 22nd, at 6-30 a.m., wind S.W.; cold, wet weather followed and the cuckoo was almost silent for several days; now, "cuckoo"—"cuckoo"—"cuckoo" is the commonest bird-note of this countryside.

W. T. PAGE,
Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey, May 8th, 1918.

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I am sending a few notes *re* Spring migrants, etc.

April 9 Saw a bird of the Swallow family after five o'clock in the afternoon, believe it was a Chimney Swallow.
,, 11 Heard Chiffchaff.
,, 21 Heard Wryneck.
,, 22 Heard Willow Warbler.
,, 26 Heard Cuckoo.
,, 27 Saw two birds, not well enough to properly identify them, but feel sure they were House Martins.
,, 30 Saw Wheater on the ground, attached to my cottage, for a few moments in the evening.
May 2 Saw several Swifts.
,, 3 Heard Nightingale—singing freely.

J. WEIR,
New Milton, Hants, 7-5-'18.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Young Peaceful × Zebra Dove.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest and Eggs of Black Rail.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Some Birds and their Nests in the Boyers' House Aviaries.

By W. SHORE BAILY.

(Concluded from page 102).

Weavers and Whydahs were also a complete failure. The Black-headed Weavers nested twice, but the eggs in each case were infertile. Jackson's Whydahs also nested twice. The first time I failed to find the nest, but in the second nest the eggs were clear. I think that the season must have had something to do with the number of clear eggs. I fancy that there was a shortage of insect life last summer. There certainly was in the case of wasps. From some people's point of view, this would no doubt be a blessing, but the aviculturist always welcomes the grubs, as they make such fine food for insectivorous birds. An account of the nesting of my Black-tailed Hawfinches and their lack of success has appeared in B.N. As I write, both birds are singing, so I hope that they will soon be nesting again. Parrakeets did very badly last year. The Rosellas only reared one young one as against ten or a dozen in other seasons. My Rosella hen and Meally cock reared one young hybrid, which is still indistinguishable from a young common Rosella. None of the other Parrakeets did anything. Doves did a little better, although not nearly as well as in a normal season. Four Bronze-wings, three Brush Bronze-wings, six Diamond, and two Masked Doves, left the nest. Several Necklace and Senegal hybrids were reared, and I have put up a pair of these young ones to see if they will breed this season. The cock seems anxious to do so, but the hen does not respond so far. Two young hybrids were reared from a cock Peaceful and a hen Zebra Dove, the first time, I believe, that this cross has been recorded. The young are like the Peaceful father, and are, I believe, a true pair. If they prove to be, I shall try and breed from them also. One of my most interesting birds is the African Black Rail. This pretty little bird was unfortunately without a partner. Nevertheless, she nested three times. The first time the nest was built upon the ground in the long grass. The other two nests were suspended in the flags about a foot above the water. Five eggs were laid on each occasion. Latterly this little wader had made great friends with my Amazon Rail, a bird about twice its size, an account of which appeared in B.N., 1916, Vol. VII. Sad to relate, this, the most interesting and tamest bird I have ever had, met her fate by drowning a short time ago. I had put her into another aviary, in which the pond was deeper than in the one in which she had been living. She evidently got out of her depth, and having no feet was, I suppose, unable to swim. Many and various are the vicissitudes of bird-keeping.

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Macaws.

By John W. Marsden, F.Z.S.

Our editor has asked me for an article on Macaws. I fear very few members are interested in them, though anyone who has time and wants a real pal, cannot do better than get one or two. I have kept a large variety of birds during the last forty years. When I was very young I had bantams and soon got foreigners of the common kind, but my favourites are Macaws and Water-fowl. The latter are about the least trouble to keep, and the large Macaws, to do them justice (unless kept in aviaries), the most trouble, or I should say take up most time.

I consider them the most intelligent of all birds, not excluding even the Grey Parrot, and I have had a very clever one. You may as well keep a macaw chained to a stand all day and only feed it, as keep a dog chained to a kennel, they both spend a miserable existence and do not develop the intelligence they possess. Of course this does not so much apply to birds kept in public gardens where they see more to interest them, as when kept in private collections. I do not think the species of Macaw matters, but the individual. I have found good and a

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Young Masked Dove.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Black Rail.

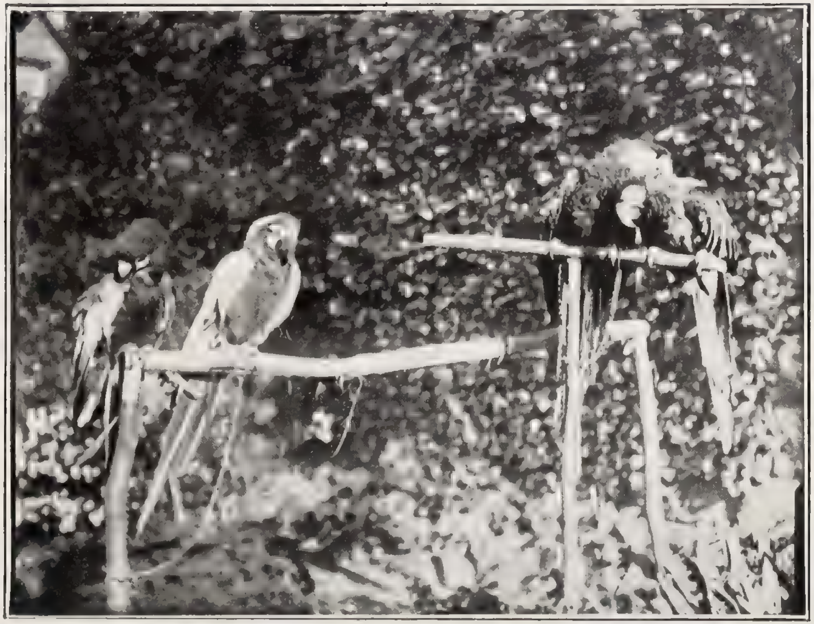

Photo J. W. Marsden.

Macaws on Garden Perches.

few bad in nearly all the species. Twenty years ago I had twelve or fourteen including Hyacinthine. Lear's, Military, Blue and Yellow, Red and Blue, Red and Yellow, and in small ones Spix's and Illiger's. The Hyacinthine spoke a few words; I could do anything with him, but he was dangerous with strangers. The Lear's was a fair talker, and a very good imitator of all sounds and tame with everybody. The Military would swear occasionally and only myself could handle him, and that with care. I never heard the Spix's speak; it was very tame. The Illiger's (I had two) were both stupid, but, I think, most parrots are better with human beings when kept singly. The commoner species of Macaws vary as individuals and not as species, except in colouration of plumage, size, etc.

At this time, being very busy, and not having leisure to attend to them as I wished, I had box cages made; a frame of wood lined with galvanised sheet iron with strong wire fronts, size 2 feet 6 inches by 3 feet, and 5 feet high. They did very well in these cages, but as I had less and less time to give to them, sometimes not being able to feed them myself I parted with them, and kept only Water-fowl, Waders, etc., and have not had a Macaw again until last year.

After nearly two years on munition work, I broke down, so having plenty of time on my hands I bought some large Macaws. I have now a very large Military, two Blue and Yellows, two Blue and Reds, and two Red and Yellows. The Military I have now, also swears. It may be a habit in the Army. I keep them in a wood-house on swings; a ring runs on the perch to which I fasten a chain by a spring-hook. This chain is only about three inches long so they cannot get round the side of the swing and get fast. When they are in the garden, and that is all day when the weather is fit, I put a long chain on to the ones that fly; the others go about like barn door fowls. In the early morning when the dew is on the ground, they much enjoy a walk and roll on the wet grass. They have rustic perches, long enough to hold two or three birds, when this is destroyed they get a new one. We also have a low stone wall; they spend some time also on this. It keeps their claws and beaks in good order. My birds make very little noise. If they are fed at regular hours, have plenty of amusement, and are well scolded if they shriek, they are very quick to know how to behave themselves; in fact, unless you make pals of them, you do not get the best out of them; some, of course, are stupid no matter how you treat them.

I have a Lemon-crested Cockatoo whose only accomplishment is dancing, when you whistle "Pop goes the Weasle." A young Rosella has learnt this tune and it is very amusing to see the Cockatoo dancing to the accompaniment of the Parrakeet.

The following letter was written by the Rev. C. D. Farrar, for the *Avicultural Magazine* for 1899; it gives an account of a Red and Blue Macaw, which was the worst tempered bird I ever knew, but a very fine specimen indeed.

CATCHING A TARTAR.

"Sir,—I think the sub-joined account of an escaped macaw will "amuse the readers of our magazine. Some months since my friend Mr. "Marsden managed by accident to let one of his macaws get loose. I was "lunching with him soon after and he gave me the following laughable "and graphic account of the escape and capture.

"'I was cleaning out the brute's cage,' he said, 'when somehow he "managed to slip out, and before I knew it there he was sailing far over-"head. 'Ah, but he did look grand!' said my friend, 'as he went over the "spire of All Souls.' I gave him up for lost, but thought I would advert-"ise for him and offer a reward. Some days later I heard that a macaw "had been captured in a distant part of Leeds, so I went to see if it was "my old friend. After a lot of trouble I found the house and asking if "they had a macaw, they informed me that some workmen had caged "some kind of a foreign hawk. The sufferings of those poor fellows in "affecting the capture appeared to have been appalling. I asked where "the bird was,' said Mr. Marsden, 'the woman of the house told me it "was in the best bedroom, of which it held possession, as no one dared "to enter the room. When I entered there sure enough was my old "friend, but,' said Mr. Marsden, with a shy twinkle of the eye,' 'you never "saw such a mess as that room was in. A grand bedstead nearly in pieces "and other furniture damaged past repair. I asked the woman what she "had fed the bird on. Her reply was, 'Please sir we gave him cats' meat, "as he seemed to be some sort of a hawk.' And sure enough the poor "fellow had been existing on this strange diet for several days. However,' "said Mr. Marsden, 'I was jolly glad to get him back. I had a big account "to settle with the workman for damage in capture and for ruined furni-"ture, besides the advertised reward.'

"The whole story struck me as intensely comic, the best bedroom "given up to the macaw and the cats' meat diet, that I venture to send "it to the magazine in the hope that it may make my readers laugh as it "did me."

C. D. FARRAR.

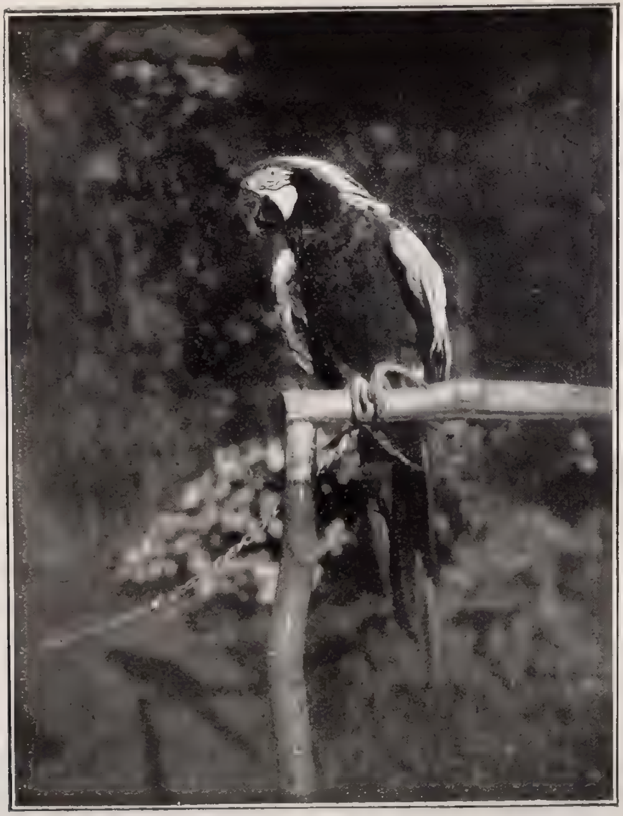

Photo J. W. Marsden.

Blue and Yellow Macaw.

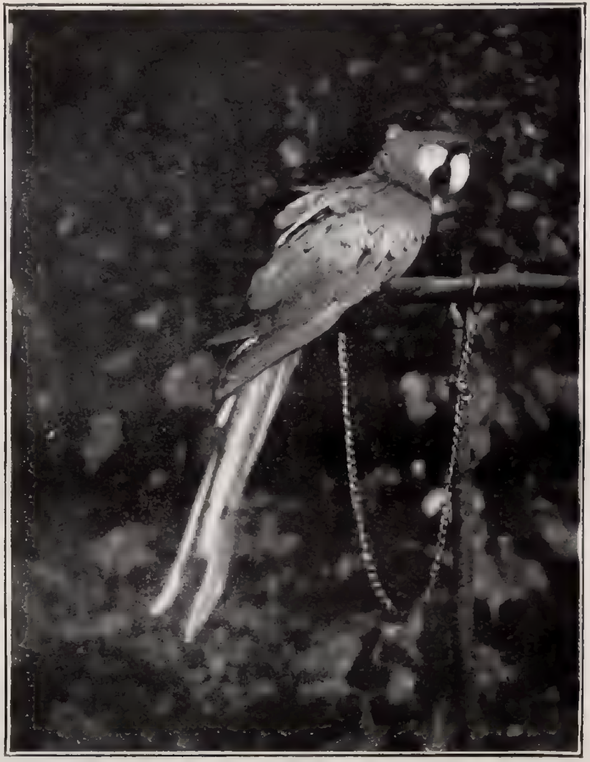

Photo J. W. Marsden.

Red and Yellow Macaw.

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 113)

Diamond Finch *(Steganopleura guttata).* An article from my pen appeared in B.N. for April, 1918 and further remark is uncalled for. I may, perhaps, place on record here that the species is an irregular breeder, i.e., fairly prolific in some few aviaries and very unsatisfactory in others, though mostly an indefatigable nester, but rearing few, if any, young. It is a native of Australia.

Gouldian Finch *(Poephila gouldiæ).* This beautiful and favourite species has also been fully dealt with in recent volumes of B.N., and only bare comment is called for.

On dry gravel soils this species is quite hardy, but on heavy, marly soils it is best taken indoors from the end of October ,and not turned out again till about the 1st of May.

Some pairs are really prolific, but in the majority of cases successes are confined to the rearing of occasional odd birds, or a pair that bred freely one season, rears nothing the next. An unlimited supply of millet in the ear, and fresh heads of seeding grass are the items of diet most conducive to success.

Once the critical period of acclimatisation is passed it is quite hardy, except on wet, retentive soils.

Grey Singing-Finch *(Serinus leucopygius).* An attractive and pretty though plainly clad species.

It is a native of Africa and has been known to aviculture for a very long period; it is a very sweet songster.

This is a free breeding species, and in a roomy, naturally planted aviary, extra foods when rearing young are not necessary, as, under such conditions it will capture what live food is necessary for the rearing of its young. I must, however, add that where the accommodation of the aviary is fully occupied it is wise to supply live insects in variety, and to keep a tin of insectile mixture (soft-food) in the aviary when young are being fed.

It readily crosses with the Green Singing-finch, and many pleasing, sweet singing hybrids have been produced, but I do not know of any instance where the hybrids have bred and reared young, though such closely related species should produce fertile hybrids.

The hen is not easily distinguished from her mate, but she is usually a wee bit smaller and slightly paler in colour than her mate, but these distinctions are infinitesimal. Song is the best test and usually infallible, though I have come across hens (had one such) which sang almost as strongly as the males

GREEN SINGING-FINCH *(S. icterus).* Some years ago I wrote an article on the species and I am including it here as it covers all that need be said thereupon.

This beautiful Southern and Western African bird greatly resembles our English Siskin in colour, size, and activity, but is more slimly built, and is fully as active and entertaining among the branches as our native Tits. A description would be superfluous it being well known—therefore will simply say, for the benefit of any unacquainted with this charming Serin, that is a bright yellow bird, variegated with olive green and lined with black.

They are very attractive and pleasing, both in colour and deportment, readily become tame, *but are quarrelsome in a mixed collection put up for breeding;* with a mixed assortment of Finches kept simply for show and not for breeding, a single specimen may be kept without much risk *providing there is plenty of space.* They are quite hardy, in spite of what some writers have stated " that the least frost would be fatal "; mine have been out doors all the year round for three years, in a small portable aviary, which is but little more than a large box cage, with waterproof gable top; they are never covered up at night, not in the severest weather, and they show by their demeanour in the midst of them, that our winter frosts wet and fog, do not inconvenience them in the least.

There is no apparent sexual difference, the hen being perhaps a shade smaller and a trifle duller in colour, but this distinction would only hold good, when the birds were of the same age. For instance, an old hen would be as large and as brilliant as a young cock, in spite of this there is but little difficulty in sexing up, as the male sings almost incessantly and the hen but seldom. One writer states that the hen has a white spot on the chin—this I cannot say—my hen has no such mark, but in making this comment I must state that I have had but one pair.

Its nest is usually found in a bush, seldom more than 3 feet from the ground, it is built of grass and lined with softer materials; usually four eggs are laid--yellowish white, more or less spotted with buff. Incubation lasts twelve or thirteen days. The young are covered with whitish down and leave the nest when about three weeks old. The nesting time is from September to January, hence the comparative failure to breed this Serin by the bulk of English aviculturists.

One writer states that they readily breed, and ought to be called *love birds* because of their affection one for the other—with this I cannot agree. I believe that in Great Britain there are not more than a dozen fully recorded instances of the actual rearing of young, though its Grey relative with some aviculturists rears its young freely. Though kept together all the year round (and in separate pairs also), there appears to be neither intercourse nor affection (rather the reverse) between the sexes, except during the period of nidification; they also re-pair each season, the hen alone incubates, she comes off for a few minutes only in the morning (the eggs meanwhile being left uncovered) during the remainder of the day the cock feeds her on the nest.

Though always in the pink of condition, they never attempted to build with me till August 1905. I have never seen the cock make play to the hen, as nearly all species of birds do, but rather seems to make himself disagreeable; he hisses vigorously and apparently swears considerably at his wife. Just before they commenced building I really became alarmed for they went at it " hammer and tongs "; the hen had patches of feathers pulled out and was bleeding in several places on the head, she went crouching anywhere she could to get away from the violence and persecution of her husband; for more than a week this went on, till I began to fear I should have to separate them, though I was quite certain they were a pair; but it was only nature, for all at once it ceased—there was calm. The hen began to build in a German travelling cage, first covering the bottom with tufts of grass, dried chickweed, etc., as a base, and then at one end reared a substantial cup-shaped nest of fine hay, as circular as if it had been turned in a lathe—about 5in. outside diameter by 2½in. inside and quite 2½in. deep—the hen being scarcely visible while sitting. She sat closely on four eggs from September 4th to 22nd and then gave up, so I cannot record actual success.

Food: Canary and white millet with flowering grasses, groundsel, grit, etc., with a few ants' cocoons and a little soft food as a change, which with a bath daily will keep them in a perfect state of health. When they have young a branch covered with aphides will be much appreciated and help greatly toward the successful rearing of the young.

It would thus appear that in violence of courtship and separation of sexes (for even if caged together, they simply will have nothing to do one with the other, excepting during the breeding season) they resemble our Chaffinch.

I must also charge them with egg eating, as the aforementioned eggs disappeared, and it was impossible for mice to get into their aviary, though I did not catch them *acto flagranto*.

Hybrids have been produced with the Canary and its Grey coated relative.

They are enduring, the male has a sweet and fairly sustained song; their movements among the branches are active and interesting, and even with more than the disadvantages enumerated above, are worth a place in every birdroom, where they will be a source of pleasure and interest to their owner.

Since the above was written I have successfully bred this species on two occasions, and have successfully crossed it with *S. leucopyguis* on several occasions. The main obstacle to success is the difficulty of picking out true pairs.

Corrigenda.—On page 111, line 8, from bottom, for "10 in.," read 10 feet.

(To be continued.)

Native Notes.

By J. Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

Reprinted from the " New Zealand Press," cuttings per Mr. F. Howe.—Ed.

A list of birds observed near Wellington is supplied by Mr. R. H. D. Stidolph. On Makara Hill a few weeks ago he met native larks. He saw many in small groups, but some singly. All seemed to like the company of human beings, and many searched unconcernedly for food a few yards from him. He saw a flock of starlings closely followed by a harrier hawk, which dashed amongst the small birds, and then all disappeared from view. During a hurried visit to the Botanical Gardens he saw no fewer than fourteen pied fantails, a species which, he states, may be seen wherever there is a little native bush. In places in and near Wellington dozens of white-eyes may be seen, searching for insect food. In the harbour there are black-headed gulls and red-billed gulls. The gannet is present at certain times of the year, but not in large numbers. In the last week of April he saw several gannets, about a mile from the shore, diving for their food. As the winter months approach, the mournful and sedate kingfisher comes to the sea in search of food. Recently three kingfishers were seen in Oriental Bay. All these species, Mr. Stidolph states, may be seen within four miles of the General Post Office. At the beginning of this year, in a lagoon near Longburn, there were large numbers of pukekos, as many as six being seen together. Fantails, white-eyes, harriers, and native larks are plentiful there also, and grey ducks are seen occasionally. Last year he saw some stilts on Lake Rotorua, near Ohau Channel.

Blackbirds: The unselfishness and gentlemanly manners of the male blackbird, according to Mr. R. Nairn, of Lincoln Road, Christchurch, sometimes bring disaster on the female. Mr. Nairn finds that, when he sets traps for blackbirds in his garden, it is, in nearly all cases, a female that is caught. He explains this by the theory that the male, on discovering the bait—usually a ripe cherry or strawberry—calls the female, in order that she may have the dainty. She tries to eat the fruit, and is caught. The male, probably, finds another mate, and when the trap is set again he unwittingly leads her also to her destruction. This continues until many females have been taken.

Larks: Mr. J. Callister, of Ira Street, Miramar, Wellington, reports that in the breeding season nests of the native larks may be found by the simple device of digging in a garden in a district where these birds live. They look for grubs in the broken ground, and, as soon as their bills are full, fly in a straight line for the nests. Those usually are found close to the tussocks or pieces of strong grass. The favourite material used is well broken grass, and the number of eggs, generally, is four. " The native lark," Mr. Callister says, " seldom misses an insect, especially a blowfly. If a fly settles on the sand and a lark is within a few yards, the lark makes a swift run, and that is the end of the fly."

Parrots.

By W. Shore Baily.

(Continued from page 117).

INDIAN PARRAKEETS.

The next most popular group is that of the Indian Ringnecks. Probably more of these birds are kept in cages than any other parrot. They make very good aviary birds and are not troublesome with Finches, etc.

The Alexandrine Parrakeet *(Palaeornis nepalensis)* is the largest and handsomest. It is also the most hardy. A pair in one of my aviaries dug a hole in the ground, at least the hen did, and went to nest there, and as the operation was succeeded by a heavy fall of snow and the hen took no harm, it vouches for the hardiness of the species. This pair of birds, although they failed on this occasion, subsequently reared four young ones, one of which when caged became a good talker. The great drawback to keeping these and all the other *Palaeorni* is their unmusical voices. They are inveterate screamers, although the Alexandrine is perhaps, hardly so bad in this respect as the other members of the group.

The Ring-neck Parrakeet *(P· torquata)* has also nested with me on two or three occasions, but never successfully. None of my specimens lived very long. They do not seem to be able to stand our winter out of doors.

The Moustache Parrakeet *(P. fasciata)* is sometimes imported in very large numbers, and they are then obtainable for a few shillings. I have tried for several years to get some of them to go to nest, but have not been able to persuale them to do so. They are apparently shy breeders. My birds wintered year after year out of doors. They took no notice of the small birds in their aviary.

The Blossom-headed Parrakeet *(P. cyanocephala)* and the Rose-headed Parrakeet *(P. rosa)* are both charming little birds. They differ very little from each other, and are often sold by the dealers as the same species. The hen of *P. cyanocephala* differs from the hen of *P. rosa* by having no red patch on the wing. Unfortunately the young of both species resemble their mothers, and the birds I purchased as hens turned out to be young males, so I never had a chance of breeding them. They are not noisy, and as far as my experience goes. quite harmless in an aviary of other birds.

The African Ring-neck Parrakeet *(P. docilis)* differs only from its Indian cousin in the colour of its beak, which is much darker. It has nested with me but without result. Both the birds I had proved delicate, and had to be brought indoors in the winter.

The Senegal Parrot *(Poeocephalus senegalis)* is another desirable aviary bird, and it is of course a popular cage bird also. Although very different in colour, it is related to the Grey Parrot, and comes from the same district. It is a very lovely bird in its green, orange and brown dress, and it is moreover, not very difficult to tame. The one drawback to keeping them, from an aviculturist point of view, is the difficulty in sexing them. I have had two so called pairs, and I believe that all of them were hens. At any rate, the cock of the first pair laid eggs and sat on them, and both birds in the second pair were seen to make love to an odd cock Rosella, asking him to feed them, etc. According to Dr. Butler and Dr. Greene the hen differs from the cock in having a paler coloured head and no orange on the under parts. All the four birds just mentioned, two of which were known to have laid eggs had normal coloured heads and rich orange breasts. Later on, when I had parted with these birds, I received another from one of our lady members, which I was assured was a hen. Poor "Bridget," she met with a sad end, being so badly mauled by a pair of small Conures, with whom she had lived peacefully for months, that I had to kill her. On dissection she proved to be a male. I may say that she in no way differed in plumage from the other four birds.

CONURES.

The next to be noted are the Conures, a very numerous family, many of which have not yet been bred in captivity.

The Blue-crowned Conure *(Conurus haemorrhous)* is one of the largest of these. They are rarely imported and apparently never in pairs. My two specimens agreed very well together but they made no pretence at nesting. It is doubtful whether they were a true pair. They are very amusing birds and one of them, when kept with two Little Macaws, used to play with them like a monkey, pulling their tails, nipping their legs, and even occasionally attempting to feed them. One of the most noticeable features in this species is the extraordinary size of their beaks. In this respect they resemble their cousins, the Macaws. A bite from one of them is something to be remembered. On one occasion I allowed one of them to climb on to my hand, when it fastened on to my thumb in quite a playful way. The unfortunate member was out of action for quite sometime afterwards. One of my birds spoke a few words when it felt inclined.

Another large bird is the Black-headed Conure *(C. nenday)*. This is an extraordinary coloured bird, which looks particularly handsome when in flight. For a conure it is not a particularly noisy species. I have had two pairs, but although the hens spent a great deal of their time in the nesting boxes no eggs were laid. The hens are very slightly smaller than their mates, and this is the only difference I have been able to note in the sexes. Dr. Butler tells us that the beak of the female is narrower, and not so deep when seen in profile, but I could not see this difference in my birds.

The Quaker or Grey-breasted Parrakeet *(Myopsittacus monachus)* is one of the most freely imported of the Conures. It is the only bird amongst the Parrot family that really builds a nest. The first pair I had built an enormous house of sticks, in which they used to spend the night, but they did not breed whilst I had them. The female is said to be larger and to have a much more powerful beak. I am unable to substantiate this statement, but my birds may have been both hens. This bird has bred at freedom as well as in aviaries in this country.

The Brown-eared Conure *(Conurus ocularis)* a species which very closely resembles the Brown-throated Conure *(C. aeruginosus)* is one of the few members of this family that has come into my hands, a really true pair, and I was lucky enough to breed them in 1915 (see B.N. Vol. VI. New Series). There is no apparent difference in the sexes, although Dr. Butler tells us that in the commoner variety the hen has a longer and more slender beak than has the cock. In the three young ones reared. the beaks were all of the same size when I disposed of them, at the age of five months. This is rather an attractive species, as it does not scream as badly as some of the others.

THE PETY'S CONURE *(C. canicularis)*. I have had three specimens of this very pretty Parrot. They were all alike in colour, but in this case one of the birds certainly had a rather stouter beak than the others, but although I kept them some years and gave them an aviary to themselves, they made no attempt to breed, neither did they appear to pay each other any attention. One that died proved on dissection to be a male, and it is, of course, possible that the others may have been of the same sex. They are rare birds here and not often to be obtained.

Four or five years ago, I secured from a dealer, a pair of the rare ST. THOMAS' CONURES *(C. pertinax)*. In this case there was a marked difference in the size. The yellow patch on the cheeks and forehead was much larger and brighter on the larger bird, and I congratulated myself on at last having secured a true pair. Unfortunately the hen had all the diseases that birdy flesh is heir to, and she did not live long. A year or so later I was offered a strange parrot by a dealer. On its arrival I at once guessed it to be an immature *C. pertinax*, and on its coming into colour this proved to be the case. In its young bird plumage, it was principally green, with a heavily mottled breast, and having no yellow on the head. It was extraordinarily tame, and would follow me about everywhere like a dog, but it didn't like my womankind, and would take every opportunity to give their feet a sly nip. It also spoke several sentences as clearly as a Grey Parrot. After I had kept it a few months it developed the yellow as on the face and forehead of the adult birds, and I then introduced it to my other specimen. They quickly became friends, and on being turned into an outdoor aviary promptly went to nest. Their two clutches both proved infertile, and I put this down at the time to the immaturity of the hen. Last year they were again turned out and the same thing happened again. The eggs were taken and the hen removed for a month. On returning her to the aviary she immediately went to nest again and as the cock shared the nest with her, I thought that things were now going on alright, but on examining the nest some three weeks later, I found ten clear eggs, evidently two distinct clutches, as five of the eggs were different in size and shape from the others. This looks as if after all I have two hens.

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity

By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations used in this list *vide* pages 58-9.

(Continued from page 106).

56.—CANARY. *S. canarius var. domesticus.* Universally bred.

Hybrids.

CANARY × LINNET. Vale.
,, × SISKIN. Vale.
,, × GOLDFINCH. Vale.
,, × SAFFRON FINCH.
Obtained by Butler, 1898. †A.G.B. i. 102.
,, × BULLFINCH. W.T.P. Vale.

An entry thus described appears in the Catalogue of the Crystal Palace Show, 1903. (E.H.).

× Canary (Greenfinch). W.T.P.
× Canary (Chaffinch). W.T.P.
× Canary (Goldfinch). W.T.P.
× Canary (Twite) W.T.P.
× Canary (Linnet). W.T.P.
× Canary (Redpoll). W.T.P.
× Canary (Mealy Redpoll). W.T.P.
× Canary (Siskin). W.T.P.
× Canary (Citril Finch).
× Canary (Red Siskin). W.T.P.
× Canary (Black-headed Siskin). W.T.P.
× Canary (American Siskin). W.T.P.
× Canary (Alario Finch). W.T.P.
× Canary (Grey Singing Finch). W.T.P.
× Canary (Cape Canary). W.T.P.
× Canary (Sulphur Seedeater). W.T.P.
× Canary (St. Helena Seedeater). W.T.P.
× Canary (Green Singing Finch). W.T.P.
× Canary (Serin Finch). W.T.P.
× Canary (Saffron Finch). W.T.P.
× Canary (Scarlet Rosefinch).
× Canary (Purple Finch). W.T.P.
× Canary (Mexican Rosefinch). W.T.P.

× Canary (Indigo Bunting). W.T.P.
× Canary (Orange Bishop). W.T.P. (?) * See foot-note.
× Canary (Bengalese. (?) † See foot-note.

†On the second Butler (A.M. (n.s.) iv. p. 351) writes as follows : "Some years ago a writer to the *Feathered World* stated that he had bred mules from the Bengalese (now generally regarded as the domesticated variety of *Uroloncha striata*) and a domesticated Canary ; although the production of such a hybrid may perhaps be possible, the statement was never confirmed."

With both of these opinions I think we shall nearly all agree, though there are records of other reported crosses between these two families, Linnet × Cutthroat and Silverbill × Olive Cuba Finch (Nos. 35 and 138 of this list). Regarding the last it should be noted that the Cuba Finches (*Euethia*, late *Phonipara*) are regarded by many authorities, among whom is Dr. Butler. (see A.G.B. i. 148) as the nearest of all the Finch family to the Weavers, not only in structure, but also in habits.

57.—SAFFRON FINCH. *Sycalis flaveola.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo and elsewhere.
Abroad 1st Schmidt †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

SAFFRON FINCH × ARGENTINE SAFFRON FINCH.
W.T.P. Butler in 1893 bred fertile mules. See A.G.B. i 103.
,, ,, × ST. HELENA SEEDEATER. W.T.P.
,, ,, × CANARY. W.T.P.
× Saffron Finch. (St. Helena Seedeater).
× Saffron Finch. (Canary).

58.—ARGENTINE SAFFRON FINCH. *S. pelzelni.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1908. B.N. 1908. 183.
HYBRIDS.
× Argentine Saffron Finch (Saffron Finch).

59.—LEAST SAFFRON FINCH. *S. minor.*
1st Amsler, 1915. See B.N. 1915. 320, 329. and A.M. 1916. 25.

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* As regards the first of these two recorded hybrids between members of the families *Ploceidae* and *Fringillidae*, Page qualifies his entry by the foot-note : " Needs confirmation, though the correspondent in *Cage Birds* is very positive as to the parentage of the two young birds reared, viz., Orange Weaver × Canary."

60.—YELLOWISH FINCH. *S. arvensis.* **W.T.P.**

61.—SCARLET ROSEFINCH. *Carpodacus erythrinus.*
Abroad W.T.P. C. 1st Russ †Russ.
HYBRIDS.
SCARLET ROSEFINCH × GREENFINCH.
1st Tomlinson, 1916, F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1916, 206, 256.
SCARLET ROSEFINCH × CANARY.
Abroad. "Mentioned authoritatively by Dr. Russ, writes Dr. A. G Butler." Vale, in foot-note to his list.

62.—PURPLE FINCH. *C. purpureus.*
HYBRIDS.
PURPLE FINCH × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.

63.—MEXICAN ROSEFINCH. *C. mexicanus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1910. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1910, 363. Zoo, 1912, 1913
HYBRIDS.
MEXICAN ROSEFINCH × CANARY. W.T.P.
× Mexican Rosefinch (Greenfinch).

63A.—PINK-BROWED ROSEFINCH. *Propasser rhodopeplus, (*or ? *rhodochrous.* E.H.*).*
1st S. Quintin, 1916. See A.M. 1917, 251.

64.—CROSSBILL. *Loxia curyirostra.* **W.T.P.**
Reed, 1910. See Allen Silver, A.M. 1911. 109.

65.—BULLFINCH. *Pyrrhula europaea.* **W.T.P.**
For records, see Zoo, 1905., F.W. (hanson), 1896., A.M. i. 124.
HYBRIDS.

BULLFINCH × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.
× Bullfinch (Greenfinch).
× Bullfinch (Goldfinch).
× Bullfinch (Siskin).
× Bullfinch (Linnet).
× Bullfinch (Redpoll).
× Bullfinch (Mealy Redpoll).
× Bullfinch (Canary).

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* The SIBERIAN or RUSSIAN BULLFINCH is *P. pyrrhula.* No doubt some of the hybrid records refer to this race, which is used to obtain the much desired size.

65A.—RED-HEADED BULLFINCH. *P. erythrocephala.*
1st St. Quintin. 1916. See A.M. 1917, 250.

66.—PINE GROSBEAK. *Pinicola enucleator.* **W.T.P.**
1st St. Quintin, 1906. A.M. (n.s.) iv. 285, and v. 55

67.—REED BUNTING. *Emberiza schoeniclus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1910. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1910. 363.
HYBRIDS.

REED BUNTING × YELLOWHAMMER.
†Vale, who in his list gives " Black-headed Bunting *E. melanocephala*," but in a foot-note says that in all probability the REED BUNTING was meant.

(BLACK-HEADED BUNTING, *E. melanocephala.* See above).

68.—YELLOWHAMMER. *E. citrinella.*
HYBRIDS.
× Yellowhammer (Reed Bunting).

69.—CIRL BUNTING. *E. cirlus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1908. See B.N. 1908, 128.

70.—MOORISH HOUSE-BUNTING. *Fringillaria saharae.*
1st Meade-Waldo, but I cannot find the record. It is included in Quin's List of Birds which have bred in Great Britain. (B.N. Oct., 1910).

71.—BLACK CRESTED BUNTING. .*Melophus melanicterus.*
Incomplete, De Quincey. See B.N., 1915, 261. (One young one lived till 10 days old).

72.—BLACK-THROATED BUNTING. *Spiza americana.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1911. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1911, 238, 268.

73.—SNOWBIRD. *Junco hiemalis.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1913.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.

74.—WHITE-CROWNED SONG-SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys.*
HYBRIDS.

WHITE-CROWNED SONG-SPARROW × CHINGOLO SONG-SPARROW. †A.G.B. i. 122. W.T.P.
Seth Smith (almost certainly the first).

75.—CHINGOLO SONG-SPARROW. *Brachyspiza pileata*. **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1907. A.S. Medal. A.M. (n.s.) vi. 26 and B.N. 1908 24
Hybrids.
× Chingolo (White-crowned Song-Sparrow).

76.—INDIGO BUNTING. *Passerina cyanea*. **W.T.P.**
1st Farrar, 1900. A.S. Medal. See A.M. vi. 270.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
Hybrids.
INDIGO × CANARY. W.T.P. Vale.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. Scott in the U.S.A. †A.G.B. i. 124
INDIGO × NONPAREIL.
Thomasset, 1915. See B.N. 1915. 261, 287; and 1916, 52.

77.—NONPAREIL. *C. ciris*. **W.T.P.**
1st Farrar, 1899. A.S Medal. See A.M. v. 165.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ. And Keulemans (Cage Birds, 87, p. 105) says that they breed freely in confinement and that he has known several instances (presumably abroad) of their producing two if not three broods a year.
Hybrids.
× Nonpareil (Indigo Bunting).

78.—VARIED BUNTING. *P. versicolor*.
Abroad. 1st Schleusner †Russ.

79.—TOWHEE BUNTING. *Pipilo erythropthalma*.
Abroad. 1st Landauer †Russ.

80.—ORCHARD FINCH. *Phrygilus fruticeti*.
1st Amsler, 1915. See B.N. 1915, 173, 319.

81.—DIUCA FINCH. *Diuca diuca*. **W.T.P.**
" Bred at the Zoo, 1887 and by Alderson, 1900. †A.G.B. i. 132.

82.—PILEATED FINCH. *Coryphospingus pileatus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Williams, 1905. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (n.s.) iv. 30.
Abroad. Bred once in Germany. †A.G.B. i. 132.

◆

83.—RED-CROWNED FINCH. *Rhodospingus cruentus.*
Abroad. 1st Harris †Russ. "Easily bred," †Russ.

◆

84.—RED-CRESTED CARDINAL. *Paroaria cucullata.* **W.T.P.**
Lovell Keays, 1914. B.N. 1915, 149.
Abroad. In Florence, 1837 to —39. See B.N. 1909, 236.
1st Bodinus †Russ, but the above record must antedate his by a long time.
HYBRIDS.

RED-CRESTED CARDINAL × POPE. W.T.P.
Zoo, 1914.

RED-CRESTED CARDINAL × GREEN CARDINAL. W.T.P.
1st Walker. 1910. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1910, 364
× Red-crested Cardinal (Red Cardinal).
× Red-crested Cardinal (Pope).

◆

85.—POPE. *P. larvata.* **W.T.P.**
1st Pennant, 1912. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1912, 335.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

POPE × RED-CRESTED CARDINAL. W.T.P.
× Pope Red-crested Cardinal).

◆

86.—GREEN CARDINAL. *Gubernatrix cristata.* **W.T.P.**
Farrar, see A.M. iii. 192. Zoo, 1905, 1906.
Abroad. 1st Bodinus †Russ.
HYBRIDS.
× Green Cardinal (Red Cardinal).
× Green Cardinal (Red-crested C.).

(To be concluded).

◆

Editorial.

NESTING SEASON: So far results have not been very encouraging, many first nests have been lost owing to the changeable weather of the early spring, possibly aided by the food difficulty. So far only a few brief notes have been sent in.

The Marquis of Tavistock reports that he has young Pileated, Barraband's, and Indian Ring-neck Parrakeets in the nest. The Indian Ring-necks are from a hen lutino but all are green, as were some young Blossom-heads from lutino parents, which were accidentally crushed owing to the defective shape of nest-box.

Stanley, Yellow-naped, and Queen Alexandra Parrakeets are incubating; the last named are not a model couple and their owner fears that, as the result of frequent disagreements the eggs will be infertile.

Mr. H. E. Bright reports both success and failure, but has the promise, at any rate, of a fairly successful season.

Green Cardinals have reared two young birds the strongest of which disappeared after leaving the nest, the other, though very healthy otherwise, had deformed feet and had to be destroyed. Geoffry's Doves have two young fully reared and flying strongly. Young Budgerigars are also fully reared.

The following species are feeding young in the nest:—

Long-tail Grassfinches
Diamond Finches
Zebra Finches
Peach-faced Lovebirds
Pope Cardinals

Incubating clutches of eggs:—

Masked (Cape) Doves
Diamond Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Red Mountain Doves
Violet Doves
Black-cheeked Lovebirds
Cockateels
Green Cardinals
Sydney Waxbills

Most of the other pairs are nesting (some may have eggs); among which may be mentioned: Indian Bullfinches and Goldfinches, Olive Weavers, Red-headed Buntings, Bicheno's, Ruficauda, Gouldian and Masked Finches. Hybrid Mannikins (reared last year) are paired up with a Chestnut-breasted Finch and a Magpie Mannikin, it remains to be seen whether they are fertile when paired back to species.

In Mr. W. T. Page's aviaries Crimson Finches, Grey-winged Ouzels, and All-green Parrakeets failed to rear their first broods; all three pairs are now (June 8th) again closely incubating clutches of eggs.

An odd Grey-winged Ouzel has mated with a hen Blackbird and a clutch of eggs (four, one of which has been broken) are being closely incubated. The Blackbird previous to laying was extremely wild and dashed about whenever the avairy was entered; now she still sits closely even when her nest is nearly approached.

A Zebra Finch has mated with an aged Parson Finch and they are busy constructing a home.

A pair of Indian Green-wing Doves will insist upon nesting on the floor of their shelter, as they did last year and failed to rear ,two eggs have been laid which soon disappeared.

Further reports indicate that in various aviaries a fair number of young Budgerigars, Cockateels and Zebra Finches are on the wing.

◆

Cuckoos in May.

THEIR SONG AND OFFSPRING. From a Correspondent

Reprinted from "The Times," 2/v/18; cutting per Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.—Ed

Cuckoos sing loudest and longest in May, when their full numbers have assembled in this country. and before their voices yet break and babble, except in moments of utmost excitement. May brings warmer twilights and earlier dawns; and in districts where cuckoos are numerous, for human sleepers the hours when they do not sing are too few. There vociferation is often at its height in the early morning, when, perched on some sloping bough of oak or elm, they will call 60 or 80 times without a break. And in these solitary hours, before man has arisen to claim his own, they draw much nearer to houses than they venture later in the day.

Thick woods are not their favourite home, nor yet the dense green copses beloved of the nightingale. They prefer an open but well timbered pasture country; and they are fond of the fringes of the moors, where the maybushes stand gnarled and few. Like many other birds, they provoke one another to sing in rivalry; and six cuckoos in a parish make much more than six times the noise of one. They have more than the usual incentive for such emulation. So far from the interference of cuckoos with other bird's households being due to wanton naughtiness—as the older critics of their conduct generally assumed—it is closely bound up with a deep-seated misadjustment in their own affairs. Cocks outnumber hens among cuckoos by something like five or six to one; and the fury of their shouting is an index of the rivalry induced by this disproportion So far as the male cuckoo is concerned. he may be said to be an are dent champion of monogamy. He does his utmost to secure a single wife; though it may be his fate to be restricted to a fifth or a sixth of one. Who can blame him if his voice soon grows strained and querulous, and he flits, before summer grows old from the scene of his blighted ideals ?

All know the emulous cry of the male cuckoo ; but we have to listen more carefully for the compelling voice of his mate. It is a prolonged bubbling call, less loud than his own, and sounding as if she was imprisoned, like some genie, in a water-bottle. The call works on any male cuckoo within hearing with magical power. He follows it, cuckooing loudly, and at times breaks from sheer excitement into harsh cackling notes which presage June. If a second cuckoo answers the same call, he noise is trebled and quadrupled. It becomes a positive tumult of cuckooing and stammered cackle, stimulated anew by the bubbling cry of the hen, as soon as it shows any sign of dying down.

The hen cuckoo solves all complicated questions of parentage by retiring from the post of parent. She cannot be said to be a model of the domestic virtues ; but she provides well for her young, in her own way. There is nothing to prevent her leaving eggs lying to be crushed turn or addle, like the sparrows' and starlings' eggs which we occasionally find on the tennis lawn. No doubt, if she did so, the species would become extinct ; but there would be nothing unprecedented in that. Unable to secure for her offspring the advantages of a respectable home in any other way, she places her eggs, one by one in a series of other birds' nests. Instead of one-sixth of a mother, each cuckoo chick is thus ensured a whole one ; and an absent father and irresponsible is exchanged for of the utmost attentiveness and affection If the hen cuckoo were to argue herself possessed by an exceptionally keen spirit of maternal devotion, it would be hard to refute her.

Once she has transported her egg to the chosen titlark's or hedge-sparrow's nest—or whatever other species she may select—she feels her duty is complete. She bubbles no more after May or early June, except in northern and upland districts where the whole scheme of nature is later. It is extremely rare for a cuckoo to show any interest in a young bird, either at its own or any other species. Cuckoo's eggs are very small for the size of the bird ; for thy approximately counterfeit the eggs of the small birds which can be trusted to bring the young cuckoo its proper insect diet. The young cuckoo has thus to make its way in the world at an abnormal pace. if it is to be fit to fly scuth in autumn. To attain this end an unusual capacity for self help must needs be combined with unusual powers of attraction ; and the young cuckoo has both qualities in an extreme degree. Self help of no common order is shown when, on its second or third day, the soft, blind nestling turns its foster-brothers out of their nest by writhing beneath them and lifting them over the edge with its hollow back. A Prussian virtue is applied with Prussian logic ; and if there are two young cuckoos in the same nest, the stronger throws out the weaker.

Next comes into play the young cuckoo's extraordinary power of exciting the affection of its foster-parents. Within the narrow limits of their intelligence—for birds pay no heed to their young shaken out of the nest, whether by a young cuckoo or a gale—the measure of a bird's devotion in the nesting season is the extent of the needs of its young. The young cuckoo's needs are enormous : and the old birds work to appease its appetite in a sort of ecstasy of service. This does not end when the expanding cuckoo has left, or rather burst, the nest. They will go on feeding it after it can fly, even if they can only reach its mouth by perching on its back.

There is reason to believe that cuckoos attach themselves to certain species of foster-parents—one cuckoo-clan being normally parastic on the pied wagtail, another on the hedge-sparrow, and so on. Definite types of cuckoo's egg are placed among the true eggs of each bird, and to some extent resemble them. In reedwarblers' nests, for example, cuckoo's eggs are usually dark green approximating to the dark eggs of this warbler, If anyone would find cuckoo's eggs readily, let him first find reedwarbler's nests ; and they will be found in the beds of canelike, grey-plumed reeds which shoot fast in this month by many pools and rivers. In hill countries where reeds are rare, the best place for finding cuckoo's eggs is in titlarks' nests ; and one good way to find these nests is to walk among the dead grass on the moors in the opposite direction to that of the prevailing wind, and spy beneath the over-arching grass tufts.

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Correspondence.

BADLY FEATHERED YOUNG BUDGERIGARS.

Sir.—For some time I have been wondering why young budgerigars at times come out of the nest badly feathered I believe most people put it down to inbreeding. A few years ago I had a pair coming from different parts of the country. The first nest of young were fine, big, strong well-feathered birds. About moulting time (but I did not notice this then) the second nest were small and and badly-feathered. This made me think it could not be inbreeding and I looked for other causes. At first I thought, as most of these badly-feathered birds came out in the height of summer that it was the heat and the husk, but sometimes some of the young were perfect and others badly-feathered from the same nest. This put me on to another track. Last year I noticed that the few badly-feathered ones I had were after the old birds had commenced to moult. Was the moult of the old birds when the eggs were laid, the cause? This year a hen commenced to moult very badly and laid five eggs, only one hatching and to-day the young one is in the husk, thirty-three days old, and has hardly a feather on it. I should like to know what other breeders think about it.

JOHN W. MARSDEN.

Harrogate, 10/vi/18.

◆

NESTING OF FIELDFARE IN ENGLAND.

Sir,—I have read that Fieldfares do not nest in England, I do not know if this opinion is general, but it is not my experience, as I have known of a small colony here (Staffordshire) for three or four years, and have taken a clutch of eggs on two occasions.

My attenion was first called to it by my brother-in-law who is an ardent egg collector ; he did not know the bird or its call.

We find their nests very high in Fir trees and they are lined with fresh-green grass.

ARTHUR SILLS.

Arley, 25/v/18.

Birdroom Notes.

By Isabella Wilson.

Reprinted from " B.N.," vol. 1., page 325.

It may interest members of the F.B.C. to hear of my varied luck with foreign birds this season (1903).

With regard to Budgerigars, I find the Yellow variety by far the more difficult to breed: though when reared they are quite hardy. The Green and Yellow flying together in an aviary make a fine contrast. All my Budgerigars are extremely fond of egg-food, and I always keep a saucerful on the bird-room floor.

I have bred this season, some curious hybrids—the father a Spice Bird and the mother a Bengalese. The young ones, five in number, are more like the father than the mother.

My pair of Orange-cheeked Waxbills spent most of the summer in building nests and laying eggs, but were apparently too shy to sit.

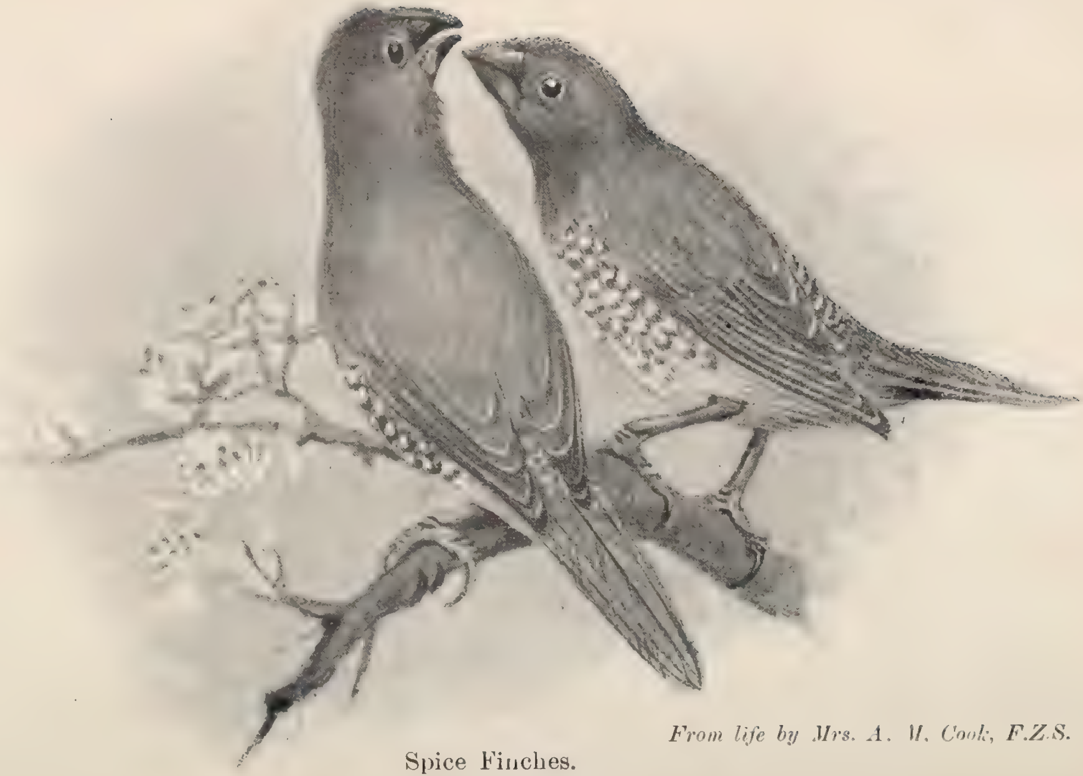
I was lucky in having a fine nest of five young Zebra Finches, but the last nest contained only one young bird—a poor crop.

To-day, I see, rather to my surprise, in the nest of a hen Yellow Budgerigar ,a young one apparently greenish-yellow in colour: having kept the Green and Yellow varieties together for two years, and never having had a hybrid, I thought there was no fear of a cross. Can anyone tell me if the Yellow are a separate variety?

[*Yellow Budgerigars are a distinct variety, and generally breed true to colour, but they are not a different species from the Green. They are an artificial variety like White Java Sparrows or the different breeds of Canaries, and no doubt originated in an accidental sport, perpetuated by careful selection. We have heard of BLUE Budgerigars, but have never seen them.—Ed.*]

It may be argued that a Green hen may have laid in the Yellow hen's nest; but this is not likely to be the case, as, for some months past the only hen Green Budgerigar in the room has suffered from an injured wing, and cannot rise from the floor.

(To be concluded).



From life by Mrs. A. M. Cook, F.Z.S.

Spice Finches.

Munia punctulata.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Spice Finch.

Munia punctulata.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

In normal times this pretty and hardy mannikin is one of the most freely imported of foreign birds and to be very cheaply obtained; prices ranging from 12s. per dozen to 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per pair. In these war-times one and even two guineas per pair has been asked and obtained—the law of supply and demand being responsible for such fancy figures; arising principally from the prohibition of the import of live birds, other than game birds, for the duration of the war—there we can leave this topic and merely consider the attributes, demeanour and pleasing or other qualities of this species, together with a sketch of their life history, both in their native wilds and in the aviary.

Our member, Mrs. A. M. Cook, has kindly provided us with a frontispiece, figuring a pair of the Common Spice Finch in a most characteristic attitude, and these notes are written to accompany the drawing.

One may almost say that there are Spice Finches and Spice Finches; there most certainly are several local races or sub-species, with divergent and more or less clearly defined plumatic marking, but, there are these dominating features in them all: (a) More or less deep nutmeg-brown being the principal colouration of the upper-parts, and (b) the more or less regularly scaled (or laced) under-parts.

The popular names of the species, too, are quite numerous, and while certain of these should be grouped against certain forms, they are only too often used indiscriminately and in consequence this loose habit has occasioned much perplexity, especially to the tyro. The following cognomens—Spice, Topela, Bar-breasted, Malayan, Spice and Nutmeg

Finch or Bird, etc.—have all been more or less frequently used, in some cases correctly, but very often very loosely.

Munia punctulata = Common Spice, Spice, Nutmeg, and Bar-breasted Finch. HABITAT.—Common over most parts of India and Ceylon.

M. topela = Topela Finch. HABITAT—S. China, Formosa, and Hainan

M. nisoria = Malayan Spice Finch.

Spice Finch × Bengalese Hybrid.

The above cover the forms most commonly imported. *M. punctulata* is, in my opinion, the handsomest of the three; the scalings of the under-parts, and the sharply defined colour areas of the other parts, together with the slightly warmer tone of colour, make the Common Spice the most pretty of the various imported Spice Finches. The prevailing colouration above is nutmeg, or chocolate-brown, washed with dark rufous on the head; rump whitish buff; tail dark brown, yellowish externally; flights dark brown with reddish external margins; throat, front and sides of neck, and chest similar to upper-surface; remainder of lower-surface white regularly scaled, except in the centre of abdomen, with blackish-brown. Beak upper mandible black, lower dark grey; legs grey; iris deep brown. Total lenght barely 4½ inches.

I do not propose to give descriptions of the other variant forms, save to remark that *topela* and *nisoria* differ mainly from *punctulata* in the scaling of the under-surface covering practically the whole area and being more V shaped than crescentic in form.

M. subundulata is very similar to *punctulata* and has undoubtedly been often imported as the latter. Habitat.—"From Cachar to Manipur, Burmah and Tenasserim, eastward to Cochin China." (B.M.C.).

M. cabanisi is a Philippine form, of which I do not remember to have seen a living specimen, nor any record of its importation.

Wild Life: So many travellers, naturalists and ornithologists have studied these common and widely distributed birds that our knowledge of their life history in their native wilds is fairly complete. From the records of Jerdon Oates, Hume, Forbes and others I have compiled the following notes:

They abound almost everywhere in India and Ceylon, favouring grassy, bushy tracts, the vicinity of villages and the villages themselves, as well as gardens and similar cultivated areas. Nests are not uncommon amid the creepers of verandahs. They feed on small grain, seeds, and undoubtedly insects.

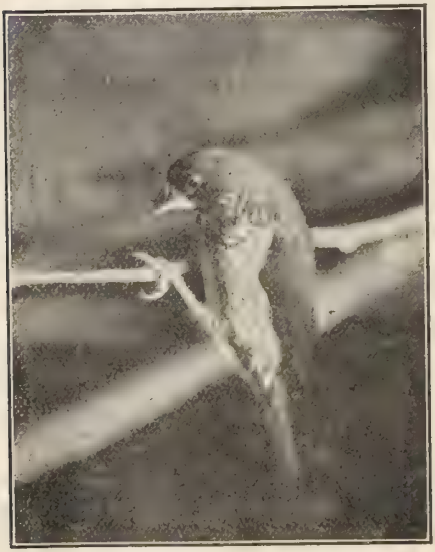
The nest is mostly placed in a thorny bush and at a low elevation, mostly 5 to 7 feet above the ground. Sometimes it is placed in a hole in a roof thatch, etc., but the former practice is the more common. The nest is a flattened sphere in form with an entrance hole at the front. It is a huge, and usually untidy, construction walls average about one inch in thickness. It is constructed of green grass and leaves externally, and lined internally with fine dry grass and rootlets.

The eggs are white, and seven form the usual (normal clutch.

The nesting season, covering the whole of India, lasts from February to October.

In the Aviary: Not a free breeder, and it was known to English aviculture for very many years before a record was claimed for its successful breeding. It is not easy to account for this, but the fact remains that even right up to date very few Spice Finches have been bred in captivity, yet quite a number of hybrids have been successfully reared, by cross mating of odd birds with other mannikins. Mr. Gill's was the first recorded success with this species, and several other aviculturists have since met with success. In my own aviary, about five years ago, a nest was constructed in a large dense privet bush, from which three young birds duly made their exit, being then of a somewhat nondescript brown hue, and lacking entirely the light coloured areas and scalings of their parents. They did not don adult colouration till the following spring. The nest was an untidy, flattened globular mass of hay and grass, with many longish projecting ends, which almost obscured the front entrance hole. The young were reared mostly on seed and greenfood, but as the parents fed by regurgitation, and they also partook freely of insectile mixture, milk sop, and what mealworms they could snap up, their progeny got the benefit of this varied menu. They are among the keenest of the Munias for live-food.

HYBRIDS: This species, for some reason, is more ready to nest and rear young when cross-mated with some other species than with its own kind; for it has happened more than once in my own experience, and of others too, that lack of a mate of their own species has not been the excuse for such *mésalliance*. Some years ago in Mr. Henstock's aviary a fair number of really pretty hybrids were reared from a cock Spice Finch mated to a fawn and white Bengalese, two of which he kindly presented to me, and one of these my brother photographed, which is reproduced herewith These two birds were not a pair and though they mated in the course of five or six years with several other species, no result accrued from the respective unions, though on more than one occasion eggs were laid



Hybrid Spice Finch × Bengalese.

The Spice Finch has crossed with Bengalese, and

Bronze Mannikins, Striated Finch and Silverbill in this country, and most probably others.

DEMEANOUR IN CAPTIVITY: Fairly active in the aviary, and as it is mostly "in the picture," it is an interesting and desirable addition thereto, as it is really a pretty bird. It frequents the tops and outside bushes of a garden aviary, and is most interesting to watch in the breeding season when courting his mate, indulging in the ridiculous love antics, for which, among bird-lovers, the mannikins are famous. The choosing of a nest site is apparently a monentous business; before a decision is reached, quite a work of exploration is carried out, and before a final decision is reached there is much tapping of branches by the male and apparent serious cogitation of the position by the female. A choice once made they are busy indeed, and weave together a huge amount of material, and usually take a full week in constructing their domicile, the walls of which are quite thick and solid. Other nesting details have been already dealt with. Common and cheap as he is in normal times I certainly consider the Spice Finch worthy a place in our collections They are amiable, and even odd birds seldom interfere with the pairs. They are quite hardy.

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

BY DR. E. HOPKINSON. D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(Continued form page 143).

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58—9.

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH NAMES.

It has been suggested that in certain cases the English names in my Record of breeding would not be sufficiently well-known to all, although they are what I consider the most commonly used and the best. This being so, I here give a list of the commoner alternative names in use for those birds in the group just dealt with (the Finches), and in that to follow (the Weavers), which have been honoured (or rather loaded) with a plethora of names. This list makes no attempt to be a complete collection of all possible synonyms, but is simply compiled as an assistance to readers of the list and to save burdening and complicating that by more names than necessary.

Personally I wish that we all could get accustomed to the use of the Latin instead of the English names. Changed as these are from time to time, they are stability itself, compared with the English ones in use for all but the best known birds which possess old established names. As it is, anyone who gets a foreign bird of which he does not know the name, gives it one at once. As this has been going on for centuries, it is no wonder that the names are multitudinous and confusing to the last degree. With these constantly increasing new additions one cannot hope to keep pace.

Putting aside, too, all question of permanence, how much more convenient the Latin names are, once the difficulty of remembering them is overcome. For my particular purpose of this record their use would simplify it wonderfully. [E. HOPKINSON].

4.—BLACK-TAILED HAWFINCH. Chinese Hawfinch, Chinese Grosbeak, Grey-necked Grosbeak.

9.—BLUE GROSBEAK. The really correct name for this bird is BLUE GROSBEAK. Other names in occasional use, especially by dealers are: Blue Bishop, Blue Bullfinch.

10.—WHITE-THROATED FINCH. White-throated Seed-eater, Seed-eater. Seed-finch are common alternative names for all the members of this genus, now *Sporophila*, but much better known under the former name *Spermophila*. In their native countries they are known as "Grass-quits." Old dealers' names were "Patativas" or "Pettykevers."

15.—BLACK SEED-FINCH. Cuban Bullfinch, Black Bullfinch, Little Black Bullfinch, Black Grosbeak, Black Bishop.

17.—LITTLE FINCH. Least Grass-quit, Mexican Grass-quit.

18.—CUBA FINCH. Melodious Finch, Melodious Grass-quit.

16.—OLIVE CUBA FINCH. Olive Finch, Yellow-faced Grass-quit.

20.—JACARINI FINCH. Glossy Finch, Mexican Glossy Finch.

21.—RED CARDINAL. Virginian Cardinal, Virginian Red-bird, Virginian Nightingale, Cardinal Grosbeak, Red Bird, Winter Red Bird, popular names in America.

26.—HIMALAYAN GOLDFINCH. Eastern Goldfinch, Asiatic Goldfinch

29.—RED SISKIN. Hooded Siskin, "Cardenal de Caracas" in the Canary Islands.

30.—SIKHIM SISKIN. Tibetan Siskin.

32.—AMERICAN SISKIN. American Goldfinch (in America all Siskins are commonly called Goldfinches). Yellow Bird, Thistle Bird, Goldfinch are N. American popular names.

33.—HIMALAYAN GREENFINCH. Himalayan Siskin, Indian Siskin Sometimes most incorrectly: Tibet Siskin, Sikhim Siskin.

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37.—REDPOLL. Lesser Redpoll, Common Redpoll.

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38.—DESERT BULLFINCH. Trumpeter Bullfinch, Rosy Bullfinch.

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43.—CAPE SPARROW. Crescent Sparrow.

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44.—GREY-HEADED SPARROW. African Sparrow, African Grey-headed Sparrow, Wset African Grey-headed Sparrow, Senegal Sparrow, Swainson's Sparrow. (The last properly = the N.E. African race).

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45, 46.—YELLOW & GOLDEN SPARROWS. The names are often used loosely for either species.

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47.—ALARIO FINCH. Alario Sparrow, Mountain Canary, " Berg Canarie," " Namaqua Canarie," Dutch names in S. Africa.

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48.—WHITE-THROATED SEEDEATER. Cape White-throated Canary. " Berg Seisie," " Dikbek Seisie " in S.A.

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49.—ANGOLA SINGING FINCH. Angola Serin, Yellow-rumped Serin.

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50.—GREY SINGING FINCH. White-rumped Serin, White-rumper Seedeater.

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51.—CAPE CANARY. Grey-necked Serin ." Seisie " in S.A.

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53.—ST. HELENA SEEDEATER. Yellow-bellied Seedeater, Swainson's Canary, St. Helena Canary, " Kleine Seisie " in S.A.

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57.—SAFFRON FINCH. Brazilian Canary (occ.) Yellow Finch (occ.)

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58.—ARGENTINE SAFFRON FINCH. Pelzeln's Saffron Finch.

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60.—SCARLET ROSEFINCH . Common Rosefinch, Ruddy Finch, Scarlet Finch, Scarlet Bullfinch, Carmine Bunting.

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62.—PURPLE FINCH. Purple Rosefinch, American Rosefinch.

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63.—MEXICAN ROSEFINCH. Mexican House Finch, Blood-stained Finch, Mexican Ruddy Finch.

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70.—MOORISH HOUSE BUNTING. Sahara Bunting.

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72.—BLACK-THROATED BUNTING. American Black-throated B., American B., " Dickcissel " in America.

73.—SNOWBIRD. American Snowbird, Slate-coloured Bunting, Slate-coloured Junco.

74.—WHITE-CROWNED SONG-SPARROW. White-eyebrowed Song-Sparrow.

75.—CHINGOLO SONG-SPARROW. Pileated Song-Sparrow.

76.—INDIGO BUNTING. Indigo Blue Bird, Indigo Bird.

77.—NONPAREIL. Nonpareil Bunting; Painted Finch or Bunting (old ns.)

78.—VARIED BUNTING. Varied Nonpareil, Many-coloured Nonpareil.

84.—RED-CRESTED CARDINAL. Grey Cardinal.

86.—GREEN CARDINAL. Yellow Cardinal, Black-crested Cardinal.

PLOCEIDÆ

87.—PIN-TAILED WHYDAH. *Vidua serena* (late *principalis*). **W.T.P.**
Anningson, 1909 .†Page. See B.N., 1909, 257 and A.M. 1910, 254.

88.—PARADISE WHYDAH. *Steganura paradisea.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C. " Has been bred in Germany." A.G.B. i. 189.

89.—LONG-TAILED WHYDAH. *Diatropura progne.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1909. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (3) i. 81. and B.N. 1909, 228.

90.—RED-COLLARED WHYDAH. *Coliostruthus ardens.* **W.T.P.**
1st Anningson, 1909. See B.N., 1909, 257.
A recent account, (Shore Baily) see B.N. 1915, 239.
Hybrids.
× Red-collared Whydah (Crimson-crowned Bishop).

91.—WHITE-WINGED WHYDAH. *Coliostruthus albonotata.*
Teschemaker, 1915. See B.N. 1915, 261.
Abroad W.T.P. C. 1st Schrodter †Russ.

92.—JACKSON'S WHYDAH. *Drepanoplectes jacksoni.*
1st Shore Baily, 1916. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1916 211.

93.—COMBASOU. *Hypochera chalybeata.*
Boyd, B.N. 1914, 338. " one young reared by Cordon Bleus."
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Tittel †Russ. Also bred by Russ †Russ

Since the above list was compiled I have come across a note by Mr. Teschemaker in A.M. 1910 (p. 89) that he has been informed that the SHAFT

TAILED WHYDAH *(T. regia)* and the RED-SHOULDERED *(U. axillaris)* have been bred abroad, the first by a German residing in Sydney, the second in Germany. In his informant's list are also included *S. paradisea, C. albonotata* and *H. ultramarina*; of these, the first two are already entered in my record, while the last may refer to the Common COMBASOU, as that has been often called the "Ultramarine Finch." but only the other name may make a new record for the ULTRAMARINE COMBASOU *(H. ultramarina)*

94.—CRIMSON-CROWNED BISHOP. *Pyromelana flammiceps.*
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
Hybrids.

CRIMSON-CROWNED BISHOP × RED-COLLARED WHYDAH.
Shore Baily, 1916. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N., 1916, 237 and the Feb inset, 1917.

95.—BLACK-BELLIED BISHOP. *P. nigriventris.*
Abroad. 1st Schrodter †Russ.

96.—GRENADIER BISHOP. *P. orix.* **W.T.P.**
1st Shore Baily, 1915. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1915, 261, 295
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ. "Easily bred" (Russ).

96a.—SUNDEVALL'S BISHOP. *P. sundevalli.* (Included in *orix* †H.L.).
1st Breeder, Wiener †Russ. (? in G.B. or abroad—E.H.).

97.—ORANGE BISHOP. *P. franciscana.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Russ †Russ.
Hybrids.

ORANGE BISHOP × CANARY. (?).
See note, Canary Hybrids.

98.—KAFFIR FINCH. *P. capensis.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C. "According to Russ is the easiest of all the Fire Weavers to persuade to breed in captivity." A.G.B. i. 193.

99.—TAHA BISHOP. *P. taha.*
1st De Quincey, 1912. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1912, 338.

100.—NAPOLEON BISHOP. *P. afra.* **W.T.P.**
1st Poltimore, 1912. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1912, 328.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.

101.—POKERHEAD WEAVER. *Quelea erythrops.*
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.

102.—RED-BILLED WEAVER. *Q. quelea.* **W.T.P.**
Abroad. Successfully bred in Germany. †A.G.B. i. 196.

(To be continued).

Parrots.

By W. Shore Baily.

(Continued from page 138).

The Yellow-headed Conure *(C. jendaya)* is, in my opinion, the handsomest of the species. I have a delightfully tame specimen, with which I can do anything. It is, for a bird, extraordinarily affectionate. I am uncertain of its sex, but am inclined to think that it is a male. A second bird that I recently obtained to go with it, differs considerably in colour. My tame bird has an all yellow head, whilst the newcomer has a patch of orange-red round the eyes and also on the cheeks. It is also less bright in general body colour. They are quite friendly with each other, and as I shall give them an aviary to themselves they will have every opportunity of nesting if they feel so inclined.

This completes the list of the Conures that I have kept but I ought perhaps to mention here a pair of their near cousins, the Little or Severe Macaw *(Ara severa)*. These are a very fine pair of birds, and are very tame. Their dangerous looking beaks make one afraid of handling them, although I have no doubt that with a little care it would be safe to do so. They are exactly alike, but I can of course easily distinguish one from the other by the difference in their expressions, just as a shepherd can tell his sheep. Although they have had an aviary to themselves for some years now, they have made no attempt at nesting. I occasionally see them playing about in their nesting-barrels, but I am rather afraid that they are both of the same sex

The Speckled or Cuban Conure *(C. euops)*. This is a handsome bird that looks at its best when flying in a large natural aviary, at which times the brilliant scarlet of its under wing coverts shows to great advantage. I kept a pair of these birds for nearly three years, but they made no attempt at nesting. Nor have I heard of any one else having any success with them. My pair were constantly kissing and preening, and often spent considerable time in their nesting box, but nothing came of it. The bird I thought to be a male was more heavily splashed about the head and neck with red than was the female. I was unable to note any difference in the shape of the beak. A capital coloured plate of the two of these Parrakeets appeared in B.N., Vol. v., new series.

Another large Parrot not infrequently kept by our members in the Australian Rose-breasted Cockatoo *(Cacatua roseicapilla)*. They are very handsome birds in an aviary, but are persistent screamers, and I found mine very destructive to woodwork. Mine did not nest, but I don't think that I kept them long enough. I found them absolutely indifferent to cold, and have many times seen their backs covered with snow, when they have gone to roost outside. The sexes can be distinguished by the difference in the colour of their eyes.

Another interesting group is that of the genus *Brotogerys*. These all make charming aviary pets. Here again the sexing question is a most difficult one, as there is no visible difference in the plumage of the sexes.

The All-Green Parrakeet *(Brotogerys tirica)* is about the commonest, and has been bred in captivity. My hen did not live very long, and I cannot now remember whether it differed in any way from its mate. I was not particularly interested in the species and did not trouble to replace it.

The Canary-wing Parrakeet *(B. chiriri)* is a most charming little bird, its bright yellow-wing coverts contrasting prettily with the rich green of the rest of its plumage. I kept a pair of these birds for a considerable time, but although they were on very good terms with each other, they made no attempt to nest. Dr. Butler tells us that the female has a narrower beak than the male, and without the laternal angle at the end of the cutting edge of upper mandible, when viewed from above. I could see no difference in mine, atlhough I wasted a good deal of time in examining them. One that died proved to be a male.

The White-wing Parrakeet *(B. virescens)* is a much commoner bird, and is frequently sold as the Canary-wing. It differs in being of a more olive green body colour, and in having the bastard wing, and some of the flights white, the greater coverts only being yellow. I have had several pairs of these little parrots, but failed to get any of them to nest. I found this species delicate, as I lost several from pneumonia through turn ing them into outdoor aviaries too early in the season. Dr Butler describes the female as having a thicker beak, with less defined culmen, and without the defined angle at the end of the cutting edge of the upper mandible, as viewed from above. My first pair were of the thin narrow-beaked variety, and although they kissed and caressed each other and roosted in the nest box together, they did not lay. My second pair were of exactly the same type, and although one of these, as I was assured, had laid eggs in a cage, they did nothing with me. At last I secured a pair, one of which was of the thick-billed type, described by Dr. Butler as that of the female. Alas! this bird, whatever its sex may have been, proved a perfect little demon, and after it had murdered two of the others, I disposed of it and the survivors. Two that were post mortemed proved to be males.

THE TOVI PARRAKEET *(B. jugularis)* I have had two specimens only, and I believe them both to have been males. At any rate one of them mated up with a hen Ringneck and she laid and incubated a nest of eggs for him, whilst he most carefully guarded the nest. Nothing, however, came of this liason much to my regret.

THE TUI PARRAKEET *(B. tui)* is a very charming little bird, about the size of the Madagascar Lovebird, and of which I think that there are two quite distinct species. Dr. Butler tells us that the hen differs from the cock by having no yellow streak behind the eye, and by having a narrower and shorter beak than the male. Now the first pair that I possessed were both adorned with the yellow eyebrow streak, and to all appearance were a true pair. If one was removed, the other was inconsolable, and they were altogether the most loving little parrakeets that I have kept. However, no eggs were laid, so I determined to try and procure one without the eyebrow streak At last I succeeded in getting one, from one of our lady members, who assured me that this bird had laid eggs in a cage. On arrival I found that it was a slightly larger bird than either of my own; that its irides were white instead of brown, and that its beak was of a darker shade. When introduced to the others they would have nothing to do with it. Sometime afterwards I was at a large London dealer's and there saw two pairs in

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Redfaced Lovebirds.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Severe Macaws.

different cages. One pair had the yellow eyebrow streak and brown eyes, and the other pair no eyebrow streak and white eyes. I called the dealer's attention to the fact that he had two males in one cage and two females in the other, and he assured me that this was not the case, as they were true pairs, and he had seen mating taking place, and that the lack of the yellow eyebrow streak was due to immaturity. Since then my pair have started to fight like demons, and I am now most strongly of the opinion that the dealer was right and that there are two distinct varieties. Our member, Mrs. Burgess, has one of these little birds without the eyebrow streak mated to a hen Budgerigar, and I think that this is another proof that this mark has nothing to do with sex distinction. One of Mrs. Burgess's birds that recently died in her possession, and which was without the eyebrow streak, was proved on dissection to be a male, whilst another that I submitted to a similar examination was found to be a hen!!

LOVEBIRDS.

The Blue-winged Lovebird *(Psittacula passerina)* is another delightful little parrakeet, and one which looks prettiest in an outdoor aviary where its blue wings and rump look gorgeous when in flight. Once acclimatized this is a hardy bird, and I have kept them out of doors throughout the winter. I have had a nest of young ones, but the cock died just when the young ones were ready to leave the nest, and the hen then deserted them. They have quite frequently bred in other aviaries.

The Guiana Parrotlet *(P. guianensis)* is a much rarer bird. I found it delicate, my specimens only living a few months. It differs from *P. passerina* by having the back and rump green instead of blue.

The Madagascar Lovebird *(Agapornis cana)* is another pretty little parrot, and it is sometimes to be purchased for as little as 2s. 6d. per pair. It will breed freely in the aviary, but I did not find the young ones that I reared very hardy, although some of them lived a year or two. They nearly all suffered from a species of asthma. If this bird was more highly priced, it would probably be valued by aviculturists, as the contrast in the plumage of the sexes is so striking. I found my birds peaceable with small birds, although I believe that this is not a general experience.

THE RED-HEADED LOVEBIRD *(A. pullaria)* is to my mind the prettiest of all the little parrakeets. It is, however, rather delicate, being subject to cerebral hemorrhage brought on, I think, by fright. I have lost two or three from this cause. It has nested with me, but unsuccessfully. I do not think that it has been bred in this country.

Young Blackcheeks. ***Photo W. Shore Baily.***

THE BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRD *(A. nigrigenis)* is probably, in captivity, the freest breeder of any of the family, but here again the sex problem is a difficult one, and although I have bred some scores of young I am quite unable to pick out the sexes. The late Mr. Mathias claimed that he could do so by noting the difference in the colour of the eyes, but I think that, with these and many of the other birds mentioned in these notes, the only reliable way of determining their sex is to hold a post mortem upon their bodies, and this of course would be of little use to the aviculturist who wishes to breed from them.

First Notes of the Season.

By H. E. Bright.

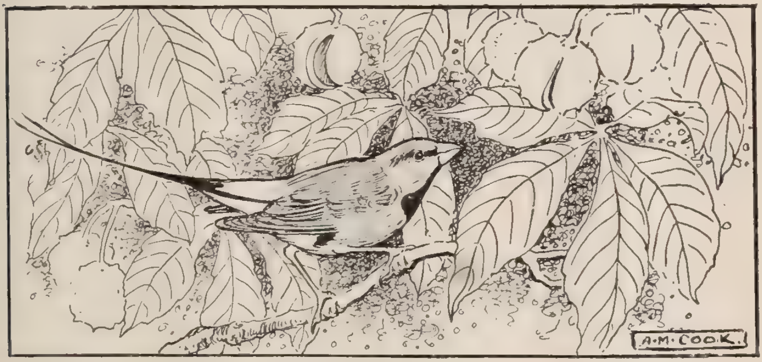
At the Editor's request I am jotting down a few notes of the early happenings in my aviaries, in the hope that they may interest fellow members.

Quite early in the year the birds began to get busy and there were, to me, many very interesting nests, and also cross matings, mostly with odd birds. Alas! like many of the promises of Spring, very few have matured, and, in the majority of instances all first clutches failed, but there were one or two bright exceptions.

After being housed indoors for the winter months the birds were turned into their respective summer quarters, in which they soon showed by their demeanour that the "time of the singing of birds was come," and apparently settled down to their business in life—contention, buoyant joyousness, and reproducing their kind. Speedily my groups of *Fringillidae* and *Ploceidae* were mated and busy seeking nesting sites or building their interesting homes of hay, fibre, etc.

Among those of all groups so engaged I may enumerate the following:

Green, Pope, and Red-crested Cardinals; Long-tailed Grassfinches; Zebra and Diamond Finches; Budgerigars; Cock-



Long-tailed Grassfinch.

ateels; Black-cheeked and Peach-faced Lovebirds; Sydney Waxbills; Masked, Diamond, Red-Mountain, Violet, Geoffroy's, and Brush Bronze-wing Doves, Indian Bullfinches, and Goldfinches; Red-headed Buntings, Bicheno's, Ruficauda, Gouldian, and Masked Finches; besides several interesting cross-matings, of which more later. Very many of the above were soon busy, either incubating a clutch of eggs or feeding young in the nest, and though the actual results fall far beyond the hopes raised by their apparent earnestness and energy, yet one cannot see so much of the little life histories of a varied collection of birds without being greatly fascinated and permanently interested in their doings, however little they may interest others.

All the above promise and energy has only resulted, to date (June 24th), in the following successes (i.e. young birds on the wing except where otherwise stated):

5 Long-tailed Grassfinches *(Poephila acuticauda).*

10 Zebra Finches *(Taeniopygia castanotis)* from three nests.

1 Green Cardinal *(Gubernatrix cristatus).*

1 Pope Cardinal *(Paroaria larvata).*

4 Geoffroy's Doves *(Peristera geoffroyi)*, three of which are cocks. These are really beautiful doves, comparatively small and good breeders in an outdoor aviary. The cock is a beautiful light grey with three purple bars; the hen a pretty brown with three bars. Two more young in the nest.

1 Red-Mountain Dove *(Geotrygon montana).*

2 Diamond *(Geopelia cuneata)* and 1 Masked Doves *(Oena capensis)* on the wing.

Budgerigar *(Melopsittacus undulatus)*, quite a number on the wing.

A few remarks on the demeanour of the birds may be more interesting than the table of actual results.

DOVES:—

The Geoffroy's Doves did not agree with a pair of Peaceful Doves, but are at present in company with pairs of Violet, Green-wing, Masked, Diamond, Red-Mountain, and an odd Bleeding-heart. The other pairs are all breeding, getting on well, and young should duly appear.

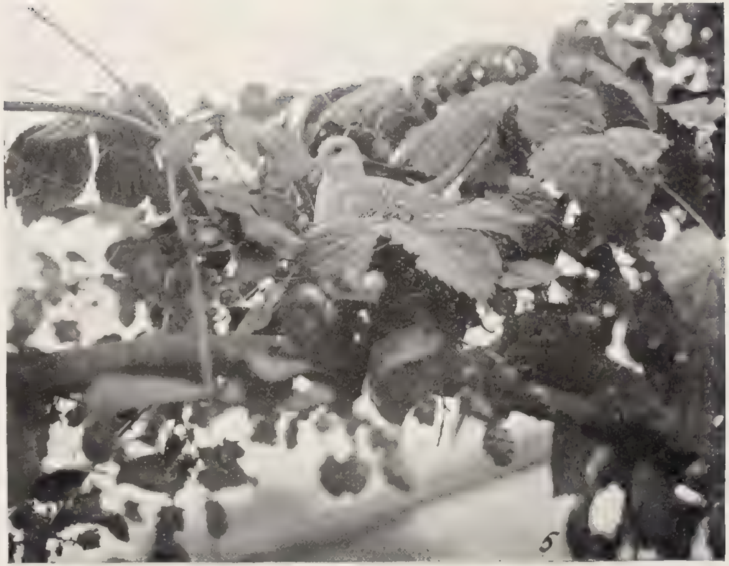


Photo H. Willford.

Diamond Dove.

In another aviary a pair each of Diamond *(Geopeliz cuneata)* and Masked Doves spoiled their first two nests by contention and almost continuous sparring, though these two pairs dwelt together in harmony and bred in the same aviary last season. They have, however, settled their differences, and both pairs are now feeding young in the nest. The Masked *(Oena capensis)* built their nest right on the top of a clipped holly, absolutely unprotected, yet though we have had very cold, windy, wet weather, the nest was nearly blown out of the tree one night, they are still alive and almost ready to fly. This particular pair of Masked are very light in colour and much stronger than the smaller and darker pair in another aviary.

Violet Doves *(Leptoptila jamaicensis)* have behaved badly so far, and neglected and lost their callow young in the first two nests. I found one just dead yesterday; it had been fed and was a few days old, but had slipped down, out of sight, between the sticks of a loosely made nest.

Brush Bronze-winged Doves *(Phaps elegans)*, also allowed their first two nests of young to die. It is wonderful how quickly doves recover. I found the hen of this pair hanging by her leg, which was badly broken and bleeding. I put it in splints and kept her quiet; in a fortnight she could walk; in a month she was practically all right, and to-day there is no trace of any injury.

Red-Mountain Doves *(Geotrygon montana)* have one youngster reared; the other pair laid, but broke their eggs, and have not laid since. Their nests have been built entirely of laurel leaves. I have never seen any doves that grow so quickly as does this species.

SMALL BIRDS:—

Sydney Waxbills *(Aegintha temporalis)* are a charming and prettily coloured species. Three pairs have nested, laid, and are sitting closely. I feel sure one or more of the pairs have young in the nest. Since writing the above, four young birds have left the nest.

Bicheno's Finches *(Stictoptera bichenovi)* are incubating, and, I think, one pair have young.

DIAMOND FINCHES *(Steganopleura guttata)* have young in the nest, but I do not know if one or two pairs had young. Yesterday, a very wet morning, I found one young one drowned in the bath.

GOULDIAN FINCHES *(Peophila gouldiae)*, of which I have three pairs, are behaving in the same manner as last year, when three pairs nested, but only one youngster was reared. They are coming through a good moult and just beginning to get lively, and one pair are nesting.

HIMALAYAN R. H. BULLFINCHES *(Pyrrhula erythrocephala)* have been quiet and unenergetic, but are now beginning to show signs of definite nesting. They first nested (and hatched) about this time of the year last season.

PARROT FINCHES *(Erythrura psittacea)*. I am afraid my two birds are both cocks. They are in perfect condition, but have only played at nest building.

YELLOW-RUMPED MANNIKINS *(Munia flaviprymna)* are building. A Chestnut-breasted *(M. castaneithorax)* is sitting, paired to a last year's Chestnut-breasted × Silverbill hybrid These hybrids have turned out very pretty birds; something like a large Silverbill with black bibs and crimson tails.

JAVA SPARROWS *(Munia oryzivora)*. One pair have just moulted and seem to be nesting in a box.

LINED FINCHES *(Spermophila pineola)* are very pretty birds, and have finely contrasting plumage, principally glistening black and white. They are a retiring species, keeping amid the foliage, and I do not often see them.

RUFICAUDA FINCHES *(Bathilda ruficauda)* promised well, but cold wet weather succeeded the hot spell, and both my hens died—they were nesting!

MASKED GRASSFINCHES *(Poephila personata)*. A pair of this species are incubating.

Pairs each of GOLDFINCHES *(Carduelis elegans)* and BULLFINCHES *(Pyrrhula europaea)* have young nearly reared.

YELLOW BUNTINGS *(Emberiza citrinella).* My pair of this handsome indigenous species are sitting. They fought badly with a pair of Red-headed Finches *(Amadina erythrocephala),* which were nesting and drove them away. They have now quite settled down.

I tried two cock CIRL BUNTINGS *(E. cirlus)* with hens Golden-breasted Cape Buntings in two of my outdoor aviaries, but neither pair appear to be inclined to mate. Both the hens have built and laid eggs in previous years without mates

CARDINALS: Green and Pope Cardinals, as already stated, have fully reared one young bird each. Having odd birds I put together a Virginian cock with a Red-crested Grey hen, but she would not look at the Virginian and fought with the Pope Cardinals, through the wire-netting in the next aviary. A pair of Red-crests *(Paroaria cucullata)* are nesting

VIRGINIAN CARDINAL'S NEST & EGGS.
E.O.P.

My pair of Olive Weavers are slowly making a nest of long fine grass. I find them quiet and orderly in the aviary, though of largish size and with rather formidable beaks.

ETCETERAS: My cock BLUE ROBIN *(Sialia sialis)* looks lovely, but, alas! I cannot get a mate for him. Can any member loan or sell me a hen?

COCKATEELS *(Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae)* have young in the nest, and there are a number of young Budgerigars about.

Cockateel ♀ *photo E. O. Page.*

Both PEACH-FACED *(Agapornis roseicollis)* and BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS *(A. nigrigenis)* failed to hatch out their first clutches, but are nesting again.

My BLUE JAYS also look lovely, and have done some desultory building, but have not reached the egg stage yet.

A few odd birds, such as Magpie Mannikins, and Tricolor × Bengalese hybrids about complete my list and notes to date, but every day brings some slight change.

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The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 132).

Jacarini Finch *(Volatinia jacarini)*. This charming species is very hardy, but on wet clay soils it is best taken indoors during a really wet winter. The male has a refulgent garment of blue-black relieved with a pure white patch on each shoulder. The hen is earthy-brown, striated with darker brown, after the pattern of a linnet. In a roomy aviary they are taking birds indeed, full of vivacity and energy, frequently "in the picture," darting in and out of leafy cover, perching momentarily on the end of some twiggy branch, then darting off after some passing fly; they are very excitable, yet amiable birds, and most entertaining whatever the conditions they are viewed under.

The nest is usually placed low down, at the foot of a bush if there be tall grass growing there, if not one to two feet above the ground. Once a bush is decided upon as a site for the nest the male will allow no other bird to rest in the lower part of the bush but savagely drives off all comers, even though they be twice his size. At this time they become very secretive in their movements and reach the nest by a roundabout way, sneaking thereto through the undergrowth. If a plentiful supply of insects can be maintained any young hatched out are usually reared, and if the aviary be natural and roomy they will forage for insects from morning till night, needing only a few mealworms, gentles, or live ants' cocoons to ensure the successful rearing of the young.

When not feeding young they will do perfectly well on canary and white millet, greenfood, and an occasional insect.

The greatest obstacle to the breeding of this interesting species is the paucity of females, as but few of these are imported. In these war times with the cessation of importation of live birds, but few of these interesting birds are to be found in English aviaries, and I much doubt if a single female remains alive.

Crimson Finch *(Neochmia phaeton).* This beautiful finch adorns any aviary and collection, however select.

Besides its well known popular name "Crimson Finch" it is also known as the Australian Firefinch, and Australian Fire-tailed Finch, but these names are seldom used in this country.

The general colouration of the male is crimson, spotted with white on the sides of the body; the crown and back of the neck are dark slate-colour, and the back reddish-brown. It is of very elegant shape with a long drooping tail. The hen rufous-brown, with the sides of face crimson.

They are somewhat delicate when first imported, but when once acclimatised are very hardy.

They are seed-eaters, and require canary, white and Indian millet seeds and green food, with an occasional insect, but in a garden aviary the latter need not be supplied except when they are feeding young, when the supply should be ample

They are ready enough to go to nest, but they are not prolific breeders, will nest several times in the season but seldom rear any young, usually throwing out their young when a day or two old, and then going to nest again. A pair in one of my aviaries, which have been out of doors for the past two winters, acted in this manner last year, and have already had two useless clutches this season, and have just hatched out their third brood, which from their behaviour there appears to be just a chance they may rear—I certainly hope so.

They have an unenviable reputation for murderous pugnacity, but I must speak of them as I find them, and in my large aviary (40 feet x 30 feet—8 feet to 10 feet high), with plenty of natural cover they have given no trouble whatever. However, there is no doubt whatever but that these exquisite birds are really dangerous in a mixed collection if space be at all limited.

Cuban Finch *(Phonipara canora).* Another very beautiful species, thick set, but very shapely nevertheless, and in some aviaries quite a prolific breeder. About the size of a Blue Tit, of stout build and has a short tail.

In the breeding season some males, in spite of their small size, become very pugnacious, and are a nuisance and source of continuous disturbance to their fellow captives, sometimes worse--harrying and maltreating birds double their size; other individuals are very amiable.

Rather delicate when first imported, but after a few months in this country are hardy and enduring.

The cock is mainly olive-green; fore-crown slaty; face mask black; commencing just above the eyes a band of golden yellow extends down the sides of the neck and across the lower throat, where it is bordered by a black band which merges into the green of the under parts. The female is similar, but easily distinguished from her mate; she has no slaty patch on the fore-crown; the yellow band is less intense, and her face mask is brown; she also lacks the black border to the yellow band across the throat.

It builds a spherical nest of the typical Weaving Finch type, with a circular opening at the front, and in my aviary had the habit of fastening leaves over the top during wet weather, allowing them to extend over the entrance, as a sort of porch, very effectively throwing off the rain.

The young are reared on seed, greenfood and insects.

Though they need to be kept under close observation till their temper is thoroughly well known, they are an acquisition to any collection, and form an attractive feature to any aviary.

OLIVE FINCH *(Phonipara lepida).* A closely allied species, slenderly built and a very graceful bird.

The general colour is dark olive-green, with a small streak of orange above and below the eyes, and a small bib of the same colour.

Similar in demeanour and general characteristics as the preceding species and quite as ready to go to nest, but a little less ready to rear its young, though it is not by any means a difficult species to breed. A fairly liberal supply of live insects is essential for the successful rearing of the young.

It is a hardy species, once it has past the first few weeks following importation.

(To be continued).

Birdroom Notes.

By Isabella Wilson.

Concluded from page 148).

Reprinted from " B.N.," vol. 1., page 325.

Numbers of young Green Budgerigars have hatched this year in my bird-room, but my last nest, containing the extraordinary number of seven young, were all but one killed by the hen bird. It cost me some careful watching to find her out—I then had her caught and killed without any delay. The cock bird fed the remaining young one most carefully, and it is now a strong bird.

What satisfactory birds Grey Java Sparrows are in an aviary! They are always in perfect feather, and never dull. I have five Javas flying with the rest of the birds, and yet all is peace. They are full of mischief, and have picked a hole in the bird-room wall, deep enough for them to sit in. I am sorry to say that though a pair, of the five, had a nest this season with young, they starved them to death; the young birds were nearly ready to fly, and in a few days would have been able to do for themselves.

Nothing ever happens to the birds of the grey variety, but the White Javas (which are, I believe, a kind of artificial production), always appear to be in some kind of trouble: my last pair were drowned. I have always understood that they, the White, were easy to breed, but mine showed no inclination to do so.

Wonderful bad luck attends my endeavours to breed Cockateels; four hens have died one after the other, leaving the cocks in robust health. My four hens all came from different places, so I cannot account for the mortality. Two out of the four had eggs with young in them, and the parents were sitting, as I thought, steadily.

I do not think any but a really patient person should attempt bird breeding, British or foreign. It is the unexpected that so often happens, the unexpected being the loss, five times out of six, of a nest of birds to all appearances so flourishing that success seems certain. When I say " to all appearances " I do not mean that I ever see my young birds in their nests: I judge by the coming and going of the parent birds. It is only when I feel a conviction that something has gone wrong, that I ever look inside a nest. And it is impossible to do any good by interference.

My Ribbon Finches had a nest, and the first I knew of it was seeing these young birds sitting on a branch and crying to be fed.

◆

A Nursery of Buzzards.

Reprinted from "The Times," 28. v. 18.; cutting per Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.—Ed.

From a Correspondent.

" Rare Birds at Home: Natural history books still speak of the " common buzzard, as though it were one of the familiar objects of the " country, but in the experience of most people the epithet has a satirical " sound. Whatever the buzzard may have been in times past, he is far " from common now. Game-preservers have persecuted him and driven " him from his old breeding haunts, and what the game-keeper began the " professional egg-collector has zealously continued. Let the eggs of any " British bird once become entitled to the positive label of rare and they " quickly progress, through the comparative very rare, towards the super- " lative extinct. The kite, as a breeding species, trembles on the verge of " this last, the buzzard is, perhaps, to be generally classified as Grade 2.

" In some parts of mid-Wales ,however, the buzzard holds his own, " and even shows signs of increasing in numbers, but those who have the " secret of a buzzard's nursery are wisely chary of imparting their know- " ledge to a greedy and rapacious world. Hence the present writer does " not intend to advertise the locality where he spent a day last week

" In a wilderness of rounded hills, bright olive green now with the " young leaves of whinberry, there lies a certain deep and narrow valley " On one side the native rock crops out in a series of bold crags, so hot " and sun-baked that, though they are a refuge for the coneys, the more " meditative coneys must sometimes think of roast rabbit. From the foot " of the rocks a moraine of slaty detritus slopes steeply to a little moun " tain stream that foams down a succession of mimic waterfalls, through " cushions of mossy saxifrage and delicate fringes of *Cystopteris fragilis* " The place is a solitude given up to the mountain-sheep and the bees in " the whinberry blossom.

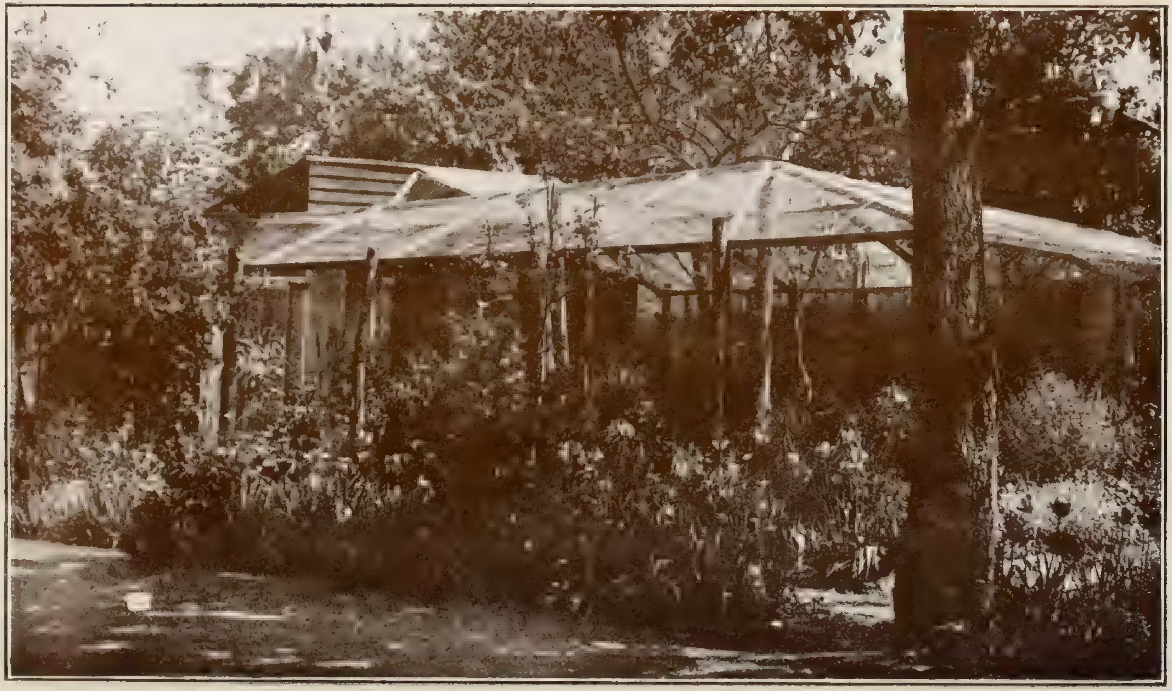
" The valley is practically treeless, but, at one point where a small " tributary runs down to the main stream, the hill-side on the left opens " unexpectedly and discloses a sheltered hollow, of considerable size, which " has once been planted with larch. This experiment in forestry has not " proved a success, for not more than some 30 trees have survived, and " they are never likely to be worth felling as timber. They slope at odd

" angles, and are much gnarled and twisted, though now their deformity
" is concealed by a veil of freshest green. Cuckoos call vigorously from
" among them, each cuckoo attended by a pair of indignant titlarks, pos-
" sibly foster-parents of the very bird who rouses their anger to-day. A
" wheatear, perched on a dead twig, joins in the scolding, at sight of
" human intruders, but no other bird-life is apparent till a swiftly mov-
" ing shadow passes over the bare hill-side. It is cast by a buzzard, soaring
" by with broad wings almost motionless that bend upwards at the tips in
" a singular way. His back is rich brown, but, as he banks, to use the
" language of the aerodrome, the May sunlight glitters upon the white
" markings of his breast and under-side, and he floats on the air as lightly
" and easily as a fritillary butterfly sails down a sunny glade.

" Presently he is joined by his mate, alike in colour, but much
" larger in size, and the two begin to mew and cry to one another like
" seagulls. Often they rise to great heights ,and hang suspended, as
" kestrels might, and then circle round again, never approaching very
" close, but betraying their anxiety by every movement.

" The reason for it is soon apparent. In one of the larch-trees there
" is a large nest, that looks from beneath like that of a carrion crow. The
" tree is not difficult to climb, though the young companion encounters a
" jagged spike, with disastrous results to his trousers, and the nest is soon
" reached. It is solidly built of sticks and stems of dry bracken, and con
" tains two young buzzards, thickly clad in down that is pale grey, almost
" white, with a shade of pink, and between them lies an unhatched egg that
" is just chipped and about to liberate a third. Small sprays of freshly
" plucked larch have been arranged neatly round the nest—buzzards always
" indulge in this decorative habit—and the larder is well stocked. There
" are the bodies of two voles, a shrew-mouse, a young rabbit, and the skin
" of another, but—game preservers please note—no trace of feather or of
" any winged prey. The baby buzzards are attractive little creatures with
" dark eyes and beaks and bright yellow ceres, and, at present, while they
" assist to keep their unhatched brother warm, the nest is a picture of
" peaceful content. It will not be so for long.

" A dark mystery in the buzzard's domestic economy has recently
" been elucidated by the camera. Buzzards usually lay three eggs, but
" seldom rear more than two young, and frequently only one. Since the
" old birds begin to sit as soon as the first egg is laid, the young are
" hatched at intervals of several days, and, being naturally fierce and vora
" cious, carry out in practice the yarn of the Nancy Bell. The weakest is
" eaten first, the next in size follows, till the one survivor literally repre
" sents in himself the whole family. The writer possesses a photograph,
" taken in South Wales, of this fraticidal scene in progress, and it, no
" doubt, provides a third reason why the common buzzard so belies his
" name."



Mr. Page's Largest Aviary, No. 1.

Photo E. O. Page.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Latest Aviaries and the Difficulties of War-time Construction.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

It has been suggested to me that, with so many of our contributors serving with the colours, and a consequent shortage of copy, I should illustrate and describe the aviaries I put up after moving to Lingfield, and I am complying with the request, though personally, I greatly wish some other pen than mine had undertaken the task.

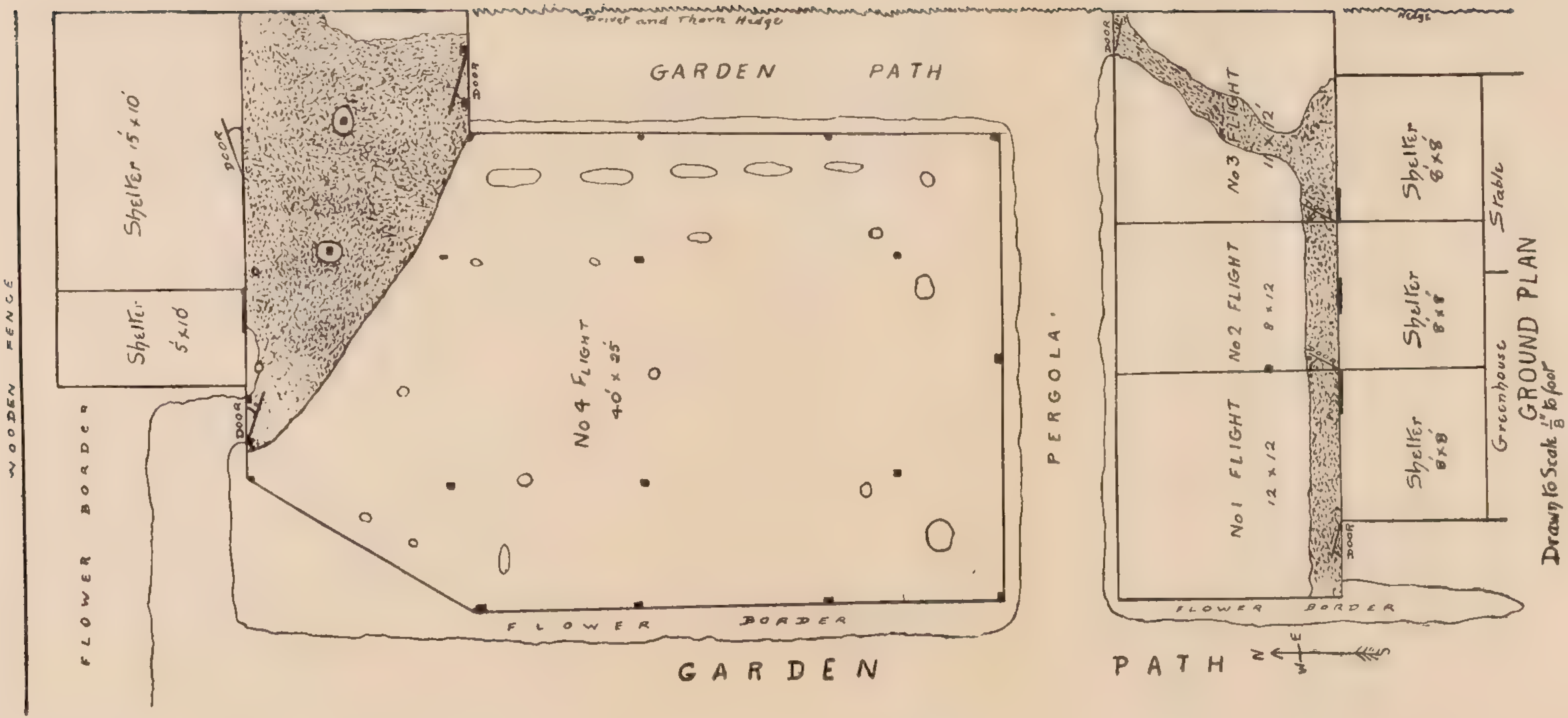
The aviaries are not yet as complete as I had hoped to make them, neither are they quite what I intended on arrival here, but several things forced a modification of my plans, viz: shortage and costliness of material and the scarcity of labour. This necessitated much delay in the beginning, and compelled me merely to remodel and slightly increase the aviaries I brought with me from Mitcham, and forcing me to use timber, that under happier conditions I should have put aside as *firewood*. I was not even able to take all the wood out of the old aviaries that had began to decay. However, by cutting up the old shelter into sections I was able to contrive a really serviceable shelter for my large aviary (No. 4), and to utilise three small outhouses as the shelters of the three smaller aviaries (Nos. 1, 2, and 3), but much labour was involved in getting an erection that would not be an eyesore to the garden, for here the aviaries must be in close proximity to the lawn and house. But I was repaid fully in the end by an erection which fits into its surroundings, and adds to, rather than mars, the general garden effect. I was compelled to erect myself with such aid as my brother could give me at week ends and holiday periods—the only hired labour I was able to get was the local builder to do the concreting of shelter floors, a little lime-washing and tarring; so that it is not surprising that eighteen months were occupied in erection and fitting up, as I could not by any means devote my whole time to it—the worst part of all was, perhaps, the excavation of the foundations and the getting of corrugated iron sheeting, two feet into the ground all round the flight, and though in the end this was satisfactorily accomplished, I never want to undertake such a task again.

The ground I was able to spare for the aviaries is about one fifth of the open space of my garden and the putting up of the aviaries involved much alteration of the garden arrangement, and to save the plants, etc., the two jobs had to proceed concurrently, and one had to pause in aviary construction to make good borders, etc.

I had a piece of ground available about eighty feet long by thirty-five feet wide, independent of the aforementioned outhouses, which, after careful consideration, I decided to utilise as shown on the Ground Plan.

I finally decided to use natural wood with the bark left on for all framing standards, and, after much delay, secured a quantity of chestnut and oak, varying from 5 inches to 7 inches in diameter. After cutting these to proper length I stripped the bark off the portion that had to be sunk into the ground, and well soaked them in creosote ,and after procuring about 1,000 feet of 2in. by 2in. quartering and giving this two coats of creosote, I was ready to make a start on actual erection.

Again I had carefully to consider matters, for there was a need to provide some accommodation for the remnants of my Mitcham collection of birds by a given date, and I finally decided to put up the three small aviaries first for this purpose, as I proposed using three standing outhouses, each 8 feet x 8 feet and 6 feet high, as shelters. Then I was faced with another problem rats were continuously about the garden and in the outhouses, and the putting of corrugated iron sheets into the ground was not sufficient protection for this trio of aviaries. I came to the conclusion that nothing short of putting small mesh wire-netting under the whole area (360 sup. feet) of the flights


Privet and Thorn Hedge
Hedge
GARDEN PATH
DOOR
Shelter 15 x 10
DOOR
Shelter 5 x 10
DOOR
WOODEN FENCE
FLOWER BORDER
No 4 FLIGHT 40 x 25
PERGOLA
FLOWER BORDER
GARDEN
DOOR
No 3 FLIGHT 11 x 12
No 2 FLIGHT 8 x 12
No 1 FLIGHT 12 x 12
Shelter 8 x 8
Shelter 8 x 8
Shelter 8 x 8
DOOR
Stable
Greenhouse
GROUND PLAN
Drawn to Scale 1/8" to foot
FLOWER BORDER
PATH
N E W S

would meet the case. I will not linger over the description of this part of my task; I did not enjoy it, but in the end it was accomplished -the ground was dug out and wire-netting laid down 12 inches below the ground level, carefully woven together and connected up to the flight framing and outhouse fronts, and the earth thrown in again -the netting was placed at this depth below ground to allow of the free planting of bushes on top of same, and to save labour I did the planting before filling in. simply placed the bushes in position and threw in the earth around them.

With this introduction and some indication of the difficulties occasioned by war-time, I need only describe the aviaries ,and this is partly done by the Ground Plan and photos illustrating these notes.

AVIARIES 1, 2, AND 3.—I need only remark that I got the skeleton framing up and the netting stretched in due course, and then had the local builder in to clean down and lime-wash the outhouses and concrete the floors. In the first instance I merely used these aviaries as temporary accommodation for the birds I had retained from my Mitcham collection, but I will describe the aviaries as they are now with their present occupants. I had better add here that in spite of all my care the rats got in and I suffered serious loss before their entry was discovered—the brutes burrowed under eight feet of concrete till pulled up by the wire netting, then ate their way up through the interior posts, which went into the ground below the netting of flights and concrete floors of shelter. I had to cut through these posts just above ground level, hack out the portion sunk into the ground, filling in the holes with cement containing a good portion of broken glass, and I have not been troubled with these pests since.

GUIDE TO GROUND PLAN.

Drawn to scale of quarter-inch to the foot, but reduced one-eighth in reproduction.

■ Indicates framing and internal standards.

Dot-shaded areas indicate gravel.

Irregularly drawn circles indicate position of shrubs and trees.

Irregularly drawn ovals indicate clumps of green and golden privet, willow herb, raspberry canes, etc.

The pergola between the aviaries is 6 feet wide, and along the aviary fronts is a narrow border of alpine plants, with a variety of rambler roses, which are already making good growth, and by this time next year, all the woodwork of flight framing will be wreathed with roses.

The flower-borders along aviary sides are planted with bulbs and herbaceous plants, which give a continuous show of bloom from February till mid-December.

NO. 1. AVIARY.—The shelter 8 feet x 8 feet and 6 feet high has an open doorway (no door), but, though facing north it is well sheltered, and the mortality among a mixed series of *Fringillidae* and *Ploceidae* was very low during the winter of 1917-8. In early spring all these were transferred to No. 4 Aviary, and this aviary now contains a cock Himalayan Grey-winged Ouzel *(Merula boulboul)*, a hen Blackbird *(Merula merula)*—these mated, and a clutch of four greenish-blue eggs were laid, but deserted after five or six days' incubation; the eggs were thickly, but obscurely, marked with reddish—a cock Chaffinch *(Fingilla coelebs)*, and a Bank Mynah *(Acridotheres ginginianus)*. The flight, 12 feet square, is planted, and contains two golden privet bushes, a cupressus, small-leaved berberis, and Japanese honeysuckle; the herbage consists of coarse grasses, indigenous weeds, meadow sweet and wild geums.

When " the times " permit, this promises to make a useful aviary for six pairs of birds of finch size.

NO. 2 AVIARY.—The shelter is similar to that of No. 1 in every respect, except that the small window is in the back. This flight is only 12 feet x 8 feet and 6 feet high, and being intended for parrakeets was not planted; the ground herbage consists of nettles, grasses, various weeds and cereals. It contains, at the present time, 1 pair Red Rosella Parrakeets, 1 pair Cockateels and a cock Blue-bred Green Budgerigar.

NO. 3 AVIARY.—Shelter similar to the preceding, but it contains no window, although the open doorway admits ample light. The flight, 11 feet x 12 feet, is treated similarly to No. 2. Its present occupants are pairs of Blossom-headed, All-Green and Red-rump Parrakeets; two pairs of Blue-bred Green Budgerigars and one pair Yellow Budgerigars; and a Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, probably a hen.

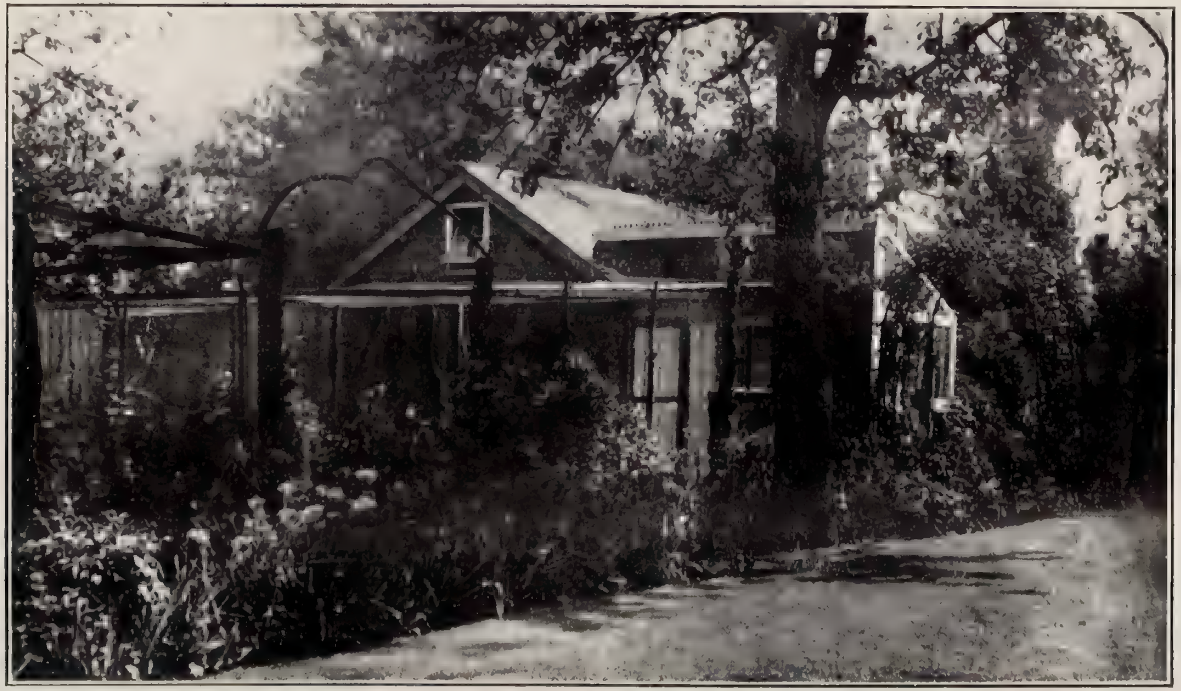


Photo E. O. Page.

Mr. Page's Aviaries Nos. 1, 2, & 3.

Photo E. O. Page.

Aviary Shelter, taken from inside flight.

Photo E. O. Page.

Aviary Shelter. taken from inside flight.

This series of aviaries has inter-communication (*vide* ground plan) to facilitate attendance.

NO. 4 AVIARY.—This is my largest aviary and contains my general collection, and will, I think, prove quite a success when properly stocked with true pairs of birds.

The shelter is a dual one, each section is independent of the other; the large section is arranged so that it can be used as a bird-room during the winter months, and its occupants either confined altogether or allowed the use of the flight during suitable periods. The small section of shelter is for the use of those birds who are allowed the freedom of the whole aviary all the year round. The shelter is of the lean-to type ,and is 6 feet high at the back rising to 10 feet at the front. It is well lighted by large windows on all its four sides, and so far it has answered its purpose well. In front of the shelter is a patch of gravel (some 200 superficial feet) which is partly roofed in,

Photo E. O. Page.

Aviary Shelter, taken from inside Flight.

enabling the birds to be in the open and yet get some protection during inclement weather.

The flight is roomy and naturally planted, and is 7 feet high, at the sides and front end, rising to 10 feet in the centre. The main width is 25 feet, but against the shelter, for a depth of twelve feet, the width is over 30 feet (*vide* Ground Plan).

The whole of the framing standards (external and internal) have climbers planted at their bases, viz: rambler roses Forsythia, weigela, honeysuckle, Polygonum, convolvulus, and clematis. The shrubs consist of cupressus (5), euonymus, bamboo, spruce fir, Portugal laurel, small-leaved berberis, golden and evergreen privet, with a standard ash in the centre of the flight. Most of the shrubs were six feet and over (bushy in proportion) when planted, so as to afford immediate cover. The herbage consists of coarse grasses, cereals, iris, docks, willow-herb, dandelion, wild parsley, marguerites, perennial asters, etc., beneath which there are small patches of bare ground all over the flight, whereon the birds can forage for insects. The general arrangement is indicated on Ground Plan.

The floors of the shelters are concrete, and all round the flight corrugated iron sheets are let into the ground to a depth of two feet, and so far the rats have been kept out.

The occupants are a very mixed war-time lot, with very many odd birds, and as near as I can call them to mind are as follows:

3 Green-wing Doves *(Chalcoptera indica)*, 1 ♀, 2 ♂.

1 Red-Mountain Dove *(Geotrygon montana)* ♂.

1 Cape Dove *(Oena capensis)* ♀.

1 pair Grey-winged Ouzels *(Merula boulboul)*.

1 pair Crimson Finches *(Neochinia phaeton)*.

1 Cherry Finch *(Aidemosyne modesta)* ♀.

1 Pekin Robin *(Liothrix luteus)* ♂.

1 Virginian Cardinal *(Cardinalis cardinalis)* ♂. This bird is 17 years old, very rich colour, and showing no signs of age—is often mistaken for a young bird.

1 Green Cardinal *(Gubernatrix cristata)* ♂.
1 Himalayan Siskin *(Hypacanthus spinoides)* ♂.
1 Parson Finch *(Poephila cincta)* ♀.
6 Zebra Finches *(Taeniopygia castanotis)* ♂.
3 Gouldian Finches *(Poephila gouldiae)* ♀.
1 Grey Finch *(Spermophila grisea)* ♂.
1 Pileated Finch *(Coryphospingus pileatus)* ♂.
1 Napoleon Weaver *(Pyromelana afra)* ♂.
1 Speke's Weaver *(Hyphantornis spekei)* ♂.
1 Malabar Mynah *(Poliopsar malabarica)* ♂.
2 Queen Whydahs *(Vidua regia)* ♂.
7 Hybrids, Him. Siskin × Canary. One of these hybrids is clear yellow—not a lutino—males, fine songsters.
4 Hybrids, Tri-Colour Mannikin × Silverbill.
1 Black Tanager *(Tachyphonus melaleucus)* ♂.
2 pairs Chaffinches *(Fringilla coelebs).*
1 Linnet *(Linota cannabina)* ♂.
1 Himalayan Goldfinch *(Carduelis indica)* ♂.
1 Grey Java Sparrow *(Munia oryzivora)* ♂.
1 Red-headed Finch *(Amadina erythrocephala)* ♀.
1 Accentor *(Accentor modularis)* ♀.

There are others which I cannot call to mind at the moment of writing.

One of the saddest of my avicultural experiences occurred recently. Going into the aviary one morning in mid-June to renew food supplies I picked up 4 cock Gouldian Finches, 2 Melba Finches, 2 White-eyes, and 2 hen Zebra Finches—the preceding day had been tropical, but during the night there was a severe frost, so severe that all my early French beans were cut to the ground beyond recovery—all were acclimatised birds and in perfect plumage and condition!

This account is inordinately long, and I must leave remarks on nesting attempts, demeanour of the birds, the pleasures of aviculture, and notes of my two pheasant runs for future papers.

The Colour-changes in Crimson-ringed and Jackson's Whydahs.

By W. Shore Baily.

The bi-annual changes of colour in the Whydahs and Weavers have always been to me extremely interesting. These changes are sometimes spoken of as seasonal ones, but at any rate in captivity our seasons seem to have little to do with it; in fact, in some seasons the change does not take place at all. Nor does the lack of these so called nuptial plumes in any way interfere with their breeding operations, although I have no doubt that the males are more attractive to the hens when they have all their war-paint on. Very little seems to have been written as to the time these changes of plumage take, and, of course, it would be difficult to note this in their countries of origin; so, perhaps, these few notes on the two species I am at present keeping may be of interest.

Last season my Crimson-ringed *(Coliostruthus laticauda)* cock was out of colour on April 28th. On May 15th its long black tail was beginning to appear, and by the end of the month it was fully grown. On June 12th a black patch was showing on each thigh; on July 17th there was a black spot on throat and down centre of breast; on the 30th it was showing red on head and throat, and a week later it was in full-colour. During this time it had built two or three nests and regularly displayed to the three hens in the aviary with it. It will be observed that for over a month it wore a long black tail, with its plain brown uniform as shown in photo (*vide* plate). It remained in full plumage until the end of February in this year, when its face and head gradually became brown. By March 14th, brown patches were showing on the flanks, and the crimson on head and throat was getting pale. Three days later the crimson had entirely disappeared, and a large part of the body had changed to brown. On the 24th it shed its tail, which had not changed colour. A line down the centre of the breast, and a few feathers on back,

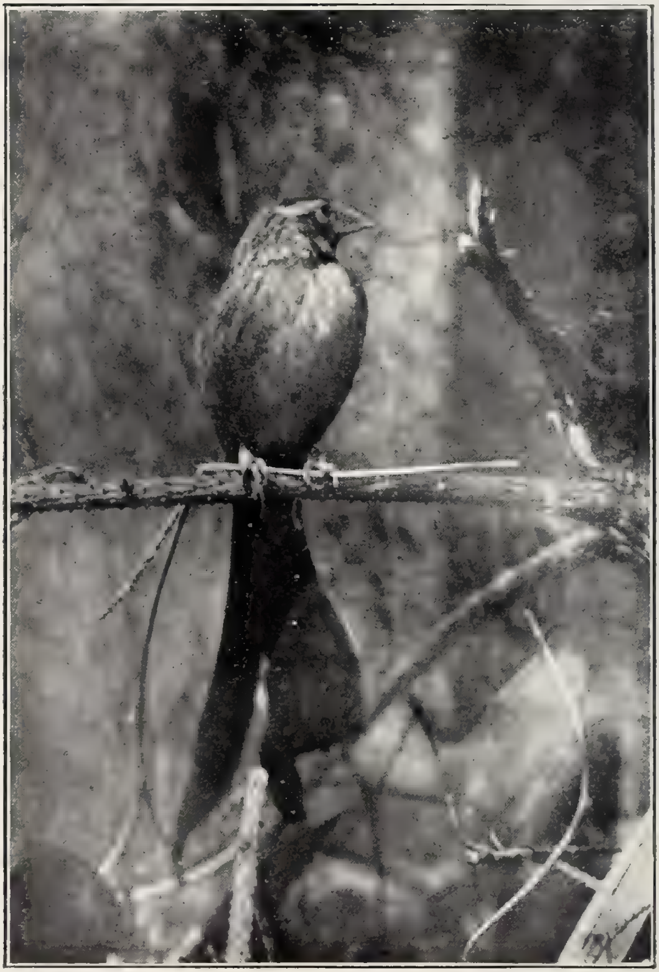


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Crimson-ringed Whydah.

In partial breeding plumage.

were the only spots of black now noticeable, and a few days later it was entirely out of colour. Almost immediately a new black tail began to grow, and by the 10th of April it was fully grown. For nearly three months now it has sported this appendage, without any other black feathers about its body, which seems to me a rather curious occurrence.

Last season my Jackson Whydah *(Dreplanoplectes jacksoni)* commenced showing colour in the middle of June. On the 23rd its tail was growing, and on the 29th it was in half-colour, and one of its hens was already sitting. By the 7th of July it was in full colour, and shortly afterwards the second hen was sitting. This spring it commenced going out of colour on March 1st, shedding its tail on that day; on the 4th brown feathers were showing on the head and wings. On the 13th there was a large patch of brown down the centre of its breast; on the 18th half its body was brown, and on the 26th there were a few black feathers left on the shoulders only. This change of colour was effected largely by moulting, although an examination of the moulted feathers showed that most of them had begun to turn colour.

In the case of the Crimson-ringed Whydah fewer feathers were shed and the change of colour was caused by the loss of pigment. At the beginning of this month (June), the Jackson had already constructed a playing ground, and was busy dancing, it then being in complete eclipse plumage. On the 5th its tail was beginning to grow, and by the 14th it was in half-colour. At the time of writing, June 24th, it is practically in full-colour.

Young Whydahs apparently come into colour in their second year. Two hybrids bred here have done so. Unfortunately my young Jackson's cock died last winter, before attaining his breeding-dress. When a year old he built himself a playing ground, and regularly danced to the hens, looking very funny in his plain brown feathers and short tail. Strange to say, he proved to be the master over the old male, and gave him very little peace.

Since writing the above I have lost my little flock of these interesting birds. The cock must have found some hole in the wire, which up to the present, although I have searched diligently, I have been unable to locate. Through this he must have enticed his mates, and they are now enjoying freedom. The last time I saw them they were feeding on some growing oats in a near-by rickyard. Strange to say, none of the small English birds in the aviary with them have yet found their way out.

August 5th: I am pleased to state that I have now recaptured the Whydahs, and they are none the worse for their short spell of liberty.—W.S.B.

◆

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 171).

Parson Finch *(Poephila cincta)*.—This species is very similar in colouration and markings to the Long-tailed Grassfinch *(P. acuticauda)*, but may be easily distinguished therefrom by its slightly stouter-build and shorter tail. It has been known to aviculture much longer than *acuticauda*, and at one time was fairly frequently imported and in fair numbers, but with the advent of *acuticauda* there was a falling off in the numbers to be met with on the market, and it became almost uncommon.

In the past, when fairly numerous, instances of the successful rearing of young were pretty common, but of late years the few pairs in the hands of aviculturists have not proved prolific breeders, and it has been only a pair here and there that has yielded any result. One pair nested twice in the same year with me, and successfully reared the young, but this has been my only success with this species, but I have only possessed about three adult pairs in my avicultural experience, and, when I kept them in the earlier days my accommodation was limited and usually overstocked, and not calculated to encourage them to reproduce their kind. It is, however, a species with which one may reasonably expect success in a roomy, naturally planted aviary.

It is a very pretty species, hardy and enduring, and adorns any aviary. It has rather a reputation for pugnacity, but this has not been my experience; nevertheless, it is a species to be kept under close observation till the character of any individual pair be ascertained, especially if the aviary or birdroom be rather small and fully stocked, though much depends upon the amount of cover.

In its native wilds it frequents open, grassy areas, and builds its nest among the long grass. In captivity it usually builds in a bush a few feet above the ground, or constructs its nest in a box or husk. The nest is a rough, rather untidy sphere with an entrance hole at the front. The hens are rather subject to egg-binding.

Sexes are much alike in plumage and not easy to determine, but the hen has a smaller bib and the grey of head of a slightly darker hue than that of the male.

It is a native of North-Eastern and Southern Australia.

Grey Finch *(Spermophila grisea).* The small grosbeaks *Spermophilae* and their near allies have interested me greatly; though not of showy plumage, they yet are very neat, attractive and pretty birds, moreover most of them are sweet songsters and hardy—my original male is still living and has been out of doors all the year round since he first came into my possession in 1910.

They are not free breeders; very few species of *Spermophila* have been bred in captivity, and that mostly in isolated instances, but I must state that, except for the White-throated and Guttural Finches, this group has never been common in our aviaries.

I first bred the species in 1911, when two young were reared, but the following year two broods of three each were fully reared. Three eggs formed the clutch on each occasion. One nest was placed in a privet bush—the nest was a deep substantial, cup-shaped structure well sheltered by a densely foliaged hazel bush. The incubation period was thirteen days and for the first week the young were apparently fed entirely on live food, but on the tenth day I observd the parent birds go straight from the soft-food dish and feed their progeny. The young birds were very precocious and were soon fending for themselves (*vide* BIRD NOTES for 1913, p. 139).

The second nest was placed in the flowering head of a large dock, and the details were much as above, but the young birds only survived their exit from the nest about one month The autumn and early winter of 1912 was very wet, and it proved very fatal to many young birds in my aviary, besides the Grey Finches, and, when one of the Zoo-keepers assisted me in the usual Spring clean in the following year, many bodies were taken from nest-boxes and small barrels, including those of several Grey and Guttural Finches.

HABITAT: British Guiana to Venezuela; Trinidad and Colombia, extending to Panama.

GUTTURAL FINCH *(S. gutturalis).* This pleasing species is dull olive-green above ,and yellowish-white beneath.

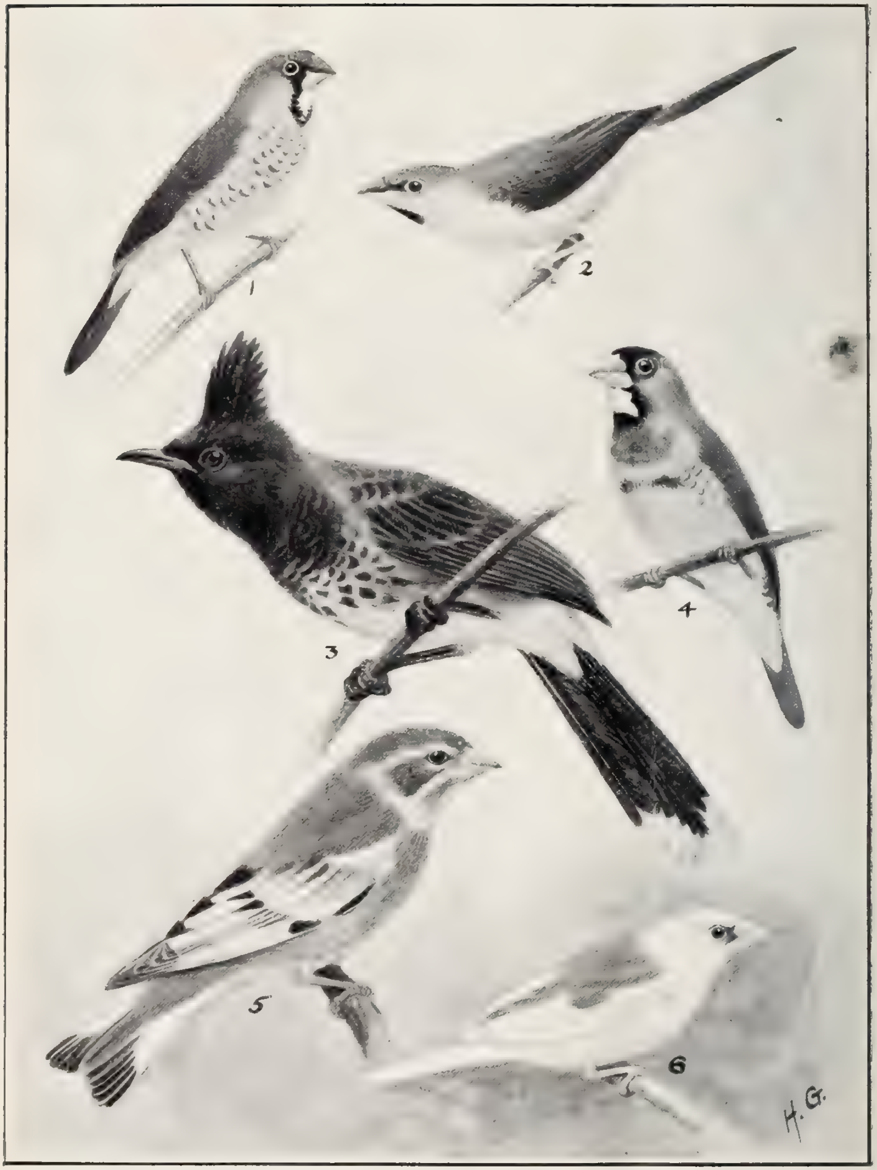
My pair of Gutturals bred successfully, also in 1912, and the nesting data were similar to those of *S. grisea* and need not be repeated (*vide* BIRD NOTES for 1913, p. 142).

I did not find the Guttural Finch so hardy as the Grey Finch, but a severe dry winter did not appear to cause them any discomfort or hurt, but a mildish wet one certainly did, and, if not given dry (artificial heat not required) indoor accommodation promptly, soon succumbed, mostly from pneumonia.

HABITAT: Brazil, Guiana, Venezuela, Colombia, extending to Panama, Ecuador, and Peru.

The *Spermophilae* are seed-eaters, but are very keen on live insects, of which they take as many as they can get; but, except when feeding young, their visits to the soft-food dish are very occasional.

(To be continued.)



From life by P. Goodchild.

1. Spice x Bib-Finch; 2. Silverbill x Bengalese; 3. Red-vented x Red-eared Bulbul; 4 & 6. Magpie Mannikin x Bengalese; 5. Greenfinch x Himalayan Siskin

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson. D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(Continued from page 157).

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58—9.

103.—TWO-COLOURED MANNIKIN. *Lepidopygia bicolor.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st v. Bomsdorff †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ
Hybrids.

TWO-COLOURED MANNIKIN × AFRICAN SILVERBILL.
Abroad. Recorded by Russ. †A.G.B. A.M. (n.s.) iv. 353.

104.—RUFOUS-BACKED MANNIKIN. *L. nigriceps.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1909. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (2) vii. and B.N. 1909 228.
Hybrids.
× Rufous-backed M. (Bronze Mannikin).

* * *

105.—BIB FINCH. *L. nana.* **W.T.P.**
1st Farrar. See A.M. ii. 138.
Abroad. 1st Hauth †Russ. "Easily bred" †Russ.

BIB FINCH × INDIAN SILVERBILL.
W.T.P. Bred by Seth Smith †A.G.B. A.M. (n.s.) iv. 353.

BIB FINCH × BRONZE MANNIKIN. W.T.P.
× Bib Finch (Bengalese).
× Bib Finch (Indian Silverbill).
× Bib Finch (Nutmeg Finch).

* * *

106.—BRONZE MANNIKIN. *Spermestes cucullatus.* **W.T.P.**
Abroad. 1st Schlegel †Russ. "Easily bred" †Russ.
Hybrids.

BRONZE MANNIKIN × RUFOUS-BACKED M.
W.T.P. Todd. A.M. iii. 78. See also Butler, A.M. (n.s.) iv. 353.

BRONZE MANNIKIN × MAGPIE M.
W.T.P. 1st Page, 1907. See B.N. 1907, 196, 219.

BRONZE MANNIKIN × BENGALESE.
W.T.P. C. Baldelli in Italy. See B.N. i 110. "The young bred again with the Bengali" †Butler. A.M. (n.s.) iv. 353. = the next entry

BRONZE M.—BENGALESE HYBRID × BENGALESE. See the above.
× Bronze Mannikin (Bib Finch).
× Bronze M. (Nutmeg Finch).
× Bronze M. (Bengalese).
× Bronze M. (African Silverbill).

107.—MAGPIE MANNIKIN. *Amauresthes fringilloides.* **W.T.P.**
1st Wiener †Fillmer (1) and also bred by Cronkshaw.
Abroad. 1st Linden †Russ. " Easily bred " †Russ.
Hybrids.

MAGPIE MANNIKIN × BENGALESE.
Wade, 1914. See January inset, p. 17, B.N., 1915.
× Magpie M. (Bronze M.)

108.—QUAIL FINCH. *Ortygospiza polyzona.* **W.T.P.**
1st Phillipps, 1909. See A.M. 1910, 37.

109.—WEST AFRICAN QUAIL FINCH. *O. atricollis.*
Abroad. 1st Oesterlin †Russ.

110.—FIREFINCH. *Lagonosticta senegala.* **W.T.P.**
1st. Farrar. A.S. Medal, 1898. See A.M. iv. 212.
Abroad. 1st Viellot, later Leuckfeld †Russ. " Easily bred " †Russ

FIREFINCH × GREY WAXBILL. Abroad. W.T.P. C.
,, × LAVENDER FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. " uncertain which way " Butler. A.M. (n.s.) 350.

FIREFINCH × ZEBRA WAXBILL.
W.T.P. C. " uncertain which way." Butler 1. *c. supra.*
× Firefinch (Zebra Waxbill) See note above.
× Firefinch (Lavender Finch) See note above.

111.—ROSY BLACK-BELLIED FIREFINCH. *L. rhodoparia.*
Abroad. Russ‡ note (R. i. 671) of the breeding by Duhring of a new " rother Astrild " probably refers to this species.
*Waxbills, Grassfinches and Mannikins; p. 61.

112.—GREEN AVADAVAT. *Stictospiza formosa.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1905. A.S. Medal. A.M. (n.s.) iv. 70.
See also A.M. ii. (Farrar), ? incomplete.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.

113.—CUTTHROAT. *Amadina fasciata.* **W.T.P.**
For an account see A.M. iii. 63.
Abroad. 1st Viellot †Russ. " Easily bred " †Russ.
Hybrids.

CUTTHROAT × RED-HEADED FINCH.
W.T.P. Page writes (B.N. 1907, 281) that a young one was bred, but drowned two days after leaving the nest. Unless there is another record besides this incomplete success, this entry ought to appea within square brackets. (E.H.).

CUTTHROAT × JAVA SPARROW.

Abroad. W.T.P. C. Butler (A.G.B. i. 175) writes that Abrahams has seen this cross, but ? which way it was.

× Cutthroat (Red-headed Finch).
× Cutthroat (Java Sparrow).
× Cutthroat (Maja Finch).
× Cutthroat (Linnet).

◆

114.—RED-HEADED FINCH. *A. erythrocephala.* **W.T.P.**

1st Teschemaker, 1906. A.S. Medal, A.M. (n.s.) iv., 354.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
Hybrids.

RED-HEADED FINCH × CUTTHROAT.

W.T.P. Appears in Russ' of Fertile Hybrids.

RED-HEADED FINCH × JAVA SPARROW (WHITE). W.T.P.

× Red-headed Finch (Cutthroat).

◆

115.—DIAMOND SPARROW. *Steganopleura guttata.* **W.T.P.**

"often." †Fillmer. Waxbills, etc., p. 43.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
Hybrids.

DIAMOND SPARROW × ZEBRA FINCH.

Abroad. W.T.P. C. In Australia, †Butler. A.M. (n.s.) iv. 347.

◆

116.—PAINTED FINCH. *Emblema picta.* **W.T.P.**

1st Willford, 1910. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1910, 363.

◆

117.—MELBA FINCH. *Zonogastris melba.*

1st Willford, 1915. See B.N. 1915, 324.

◆

118.—AURORA FINCH. *Pytelia phoenicoptera.* **W.T.P.**

A free breeder with Erskine Allon. †Fillmer.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.

◆

119.—ZEBRA FINCH. *Taeniopygia castanotis.* **W.T.P.**

Easily bred.
Abroad. 1st Viellot †Russ.
Hybrids.

ZEBRA FINCH × BICHENO FINCH.

Abroad. W.T.P. C. See Butler. A.M. (N.S.) iv. 350.

ZEBRA FINCH × AFRICAN SILVERBILL. W.T.P.
.. × LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCH.
Rice. See B.N. 1911, 239.
.. × ST. HELENA WAXBILL. W.T.P. C.
× Zebra Finch (Diamond Sparrow).
× Zebra Finch (Bicheno Finch).
× Zebra Finch (African Silverbill).
× Zebra Finch (St. Helena Waxbill).

◆

120.—BICHENO FINCH. *Stictoptera bichenovii.* **W.T.P.**
Wiener †Fillmer. See also A.M. vi. 35.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

BICHENO FINCH × ZEBRA FINCH.
Bred in London about 1888. †A.G.B. i. 171. (Skin sent by Abrahams to Butler).
Abroad. W.T.P. C.
× Bicheno Finch (Zebra Finch).

121.—BLACK-RUMPED BICHENO. *S. annulosa.* **W.T.P.**
Howard Williams. 1902. A.S. Medal. A.M. viii. 264.

◆

122.—AVADAVAT. *Sporaeginthus amandava.* **W.T.P.**
1st Farrar, 1895. †Fillmer. Waxbills, etc. 25.
Abroad. 1st Bodinus †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

AVADAVAT × ZEBRA WAXBILL.
1st Easton Scott, 1910. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1910, 364.
× Avadavat (Zebra Waxbill).

◆

123.—ZEBRA WAXBILL. *S. subflavus.* **W.T.P.**
Dutton. (incomplete). B.N. Jan. 1902.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
HYBRIDS.
W.T.P. C. "Recorded by Russ." †Butler. A.M. (n.s.) iv. 349 ? which way (Butler).
× Zebra Waxbill (Firefinch).

ZEBRA WAXBILL × GREY WAXBILL. W.T.P. C.
.. × AVADAVAT. W.T.P.
Abroad. Recorded by Russ †Butler 1. c.

ZEBRA WAXBILL × FIREFINCH.
× Zebra Waxbill (Avadavat).

◆

124.—ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILL. *S. melpodus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Alderson, 1901. A.S. Medal. A.M. viii. 65. "in a cage." A G.B. i. 155.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ. Also bred in Madeira; see A.M. iii. 184.
HYBRIDS.

ORANGE-CHEEKED × ST. HELENA WAXBILL.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. Recorded by Russ. (Butler. I. c.).

ORANGE-CHEEKED × GREY WAXBILL. W.T.P.
Abroad. " Recorded by Russ." Butler. I. c.

× Orange-cheeked (Grey Waxbill).

125.—JAVA SPARROW. *Munia oryzivora.* W.T.P.

Frequently bred, especially the white (domesticated) variety.
Abroad. 1st Stolcker †Russ. ? where were the first white bred? Japan or China probably.
HYBRIDS.

JAVA SPARROW × CUTTHROAT.
W.T.P. Mr. Abrahams told me he had seen this cross." Butler. A.M n.s. 352. (? which way was it ?).

JAVA SPARROW × AFRICAN SILVERBILL.
W.T.P. Drummond, 1907. See B.N. 1908, 24. One was exhibited at the F.B.C. Show, December, 1903. See B.N. ii. 273. This hybrid is also mentioned by Butler. I. *c. supra.*

× Java Sparrow (Cutthroat).

× Java Sparrow, White (Red-headed Finch).

× Java Sparrow (African Silverbill).

126.—MAJA FINCH. *M. maja.*

Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Russ †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

MAJA FINCH × CUTTHROAT. W.T.P.
,, × STRIATED FINCH.

Abroad. W.T.P. C. Probably = Maja × Bengali, *(U. striata var).*
†Butler. A.M. I. c.

MAJA FINCH × CHOCOLATE MANNIKIN.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. And see Butler I. c.

MAJA FINCH × CHESTNUT FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. And see Butler A.M. I. c.

MAJA FINCH × PARSON FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. And see Butler I. c.

× Maja Finch (Chocolate Mannikin).

× Maja Finch (Chestnut Finch).

× Maja Finch (Striated Finch).

× Maja Finch (African Silverbill).

× Maja Finch (Parson Finch).

127.—TRICOLOURED MANNIKIN. *M. malacca.*
HYBRIDS.

TRICOLOURED MANNIKIN × BENGALESE.
1st, Bainbridge : see B.N. 1915, p. 15.

128.—CHOCOLATE MANNIKIN. *M. atricapilla.* **W.T.P.**
1st Easton Scott. 1912. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1912. 338.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

CHOCOLATE MANNIKIN × MAJA FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. " Recorded by Russ . . . and more recently one offered for sale by Mr. Harper." Butler. A.M. n.s. iv. 352.

CHOCOLATE MANNIKIN × CHESTNUT FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. " Recorded by Russ †Butler I. c.
× Chocolate Mannikin (Maja Finch).
× Chocolate Mannikin (Chestnut Finch).
× Chocolate Mannikin (Indian Silverbill).

129.—CHESTNUT FINCH. *M. castaneithorax.* **W.T.P.**
" bred by Osbaldeston and ? Gedney " †Fillmer, p. 57.
Abroad. 1st Linden †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

CHESTNUT FINCH × MAJA FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. and see Butler, A. AM. 1. c.

CHESTNUT FINCH × CHOCOLATE MANNIKIN. W.T.P. C.
(A) ,, ,, × STRIATED FINCH.
Abroad. Recorded †Butler, I. c.
(A) ,, ,, × BENGALI.
Abroad. Recorded †Butler I. c.
,, ,, × INDIAN SILVERBILL.
" Bagnall some years ago " A.G.B. i. 74.
Abroad. W.T.P. C.
× Chestnut Finch (Maja Finch).
× Chestnut Finch (Chocolate Mannikin).
(B) × Chestnut Finch (Striated Finch).
(B) × Chestnut Finch (Bengali).

AA,BB. These pairs of entries probably refer to the same cross; see under MAJA FINCH × STRIATED FINCH.

130.—YELLOW-RUMPED FINCH. *M. xanthoprymna.* **W.T.P.**
Teschemaker the 1st. A. S. Medal, 1906. A.M. n.s. v. 113.

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

TWO SUGGESTIONS.

SIR,—As one of your new members, I venture to make two suggestions:

(1) That a suggestion be made through the medium of BIRD NOTES, asking that those who can afford to do so will forward the cost of postage for the Magazine, for the duration of the war. I think very few of us would miss the one shilling and sixpence entailed. I start by enclosing mine.

(2) With regard to Club Breeders, could they be asked whether they are willing to supply young birds when fit to be removed from their parents, or are they not prepared to part with any till the end of the season?

Salisbury, July 27, 1918. A. E. SNAPE, Major, R.A.F.

◆

HEDGE ACCENTORS AND BLACKBIRD.

[We are indebted to some member or correspondent for two copies of *The Scotsman*, for June 7 and 15 respectively, with the following two letters marked up.—ED.]

June 7th.

◆

" SIR,—Recently a pair of Hedge Accentors *(Accentor modularis)* " built a nest on the top of a bundle of peastakes about a foot above the " ground, that had been thrown on the gravel of my garden until wanted, " and in due course hatched out four young birds.

" Nothing uncommon in this, but what I venture to think is unusual " is the fact that, in addition to the constant attention of their parents in " supplying them with food, a male blackbird, who is evidently mateless, " has also assumed the role of foster-parent, and is assiduously feeding " them as well, without any interference from the smaller species. I " watched him the other evening, and in the space of half-an-hour he fed " them five times, securing the grubs, etc., among my vegetable beds.

" On one occasion the hen accentor returned to sit on the nest, and " the blackbird dropped the food into the gaping maws that were raised " round the edge of the nest, without disturbing the mother.

" Truly this *embarras des richesses* bids fair to gorge the youngsters,

" Without inferring that above is a solitary instance, it seems to me " to be uncommon enough to be worth recording.

" I can vouch for the fact, and if anyone doubts the occurrence, can " produce several witnesses to prove the truth of the statement.

" I am, etc., A.C."

June 15th.

" Sir,—In *Nature Notes, Scotsman,* June 4, 1910, I recorded an " instance of the young of a pair of Hedge Accentors being fed by a male " blackbird, which is identical with that reported by your correspondent " 'A. C.,' on Saturday. In my instance there were also four young birds. " The first pair left the nest on the tenth day, in company with their parents, " on the eleventh day the second pair left under the charge of their foster- " parent, and were attended to by him for some days thereafter. It will " be interesting to know if the further experience of your correspondent " turns out to be the same as mine.

" My blackbird, I might say, had but one leg.

" I am, etc. Wm. ANDERSON."

◆

THE CALLING OF THE CUCKOO.

This year the calling of the cuckoo has been vociferous, and continued so right through the cuckoo season. Welcome as is the call of the "Harbinger of Spring," at first, it becomes very monotonous when the birds are at all numerous as they were here this year. I frequently saw them two or three together—often, especially in early mornings and evenings it was a case of :

Cuckoos in front and rear of me ;
Cuckoos to right and left of me,
Cuckoo'd and cuckoo'd and cuckoo'd.

The calls continued to be very numerous up to July 5th, when I certainly heard two birds calling ; on the next day at noon I heard a single bird call on and off for some five minutes, and again in the evening I heard one or two calls at intervals, and I have not heard it since.

Lingfield, July 26, 1918. W. T. P.

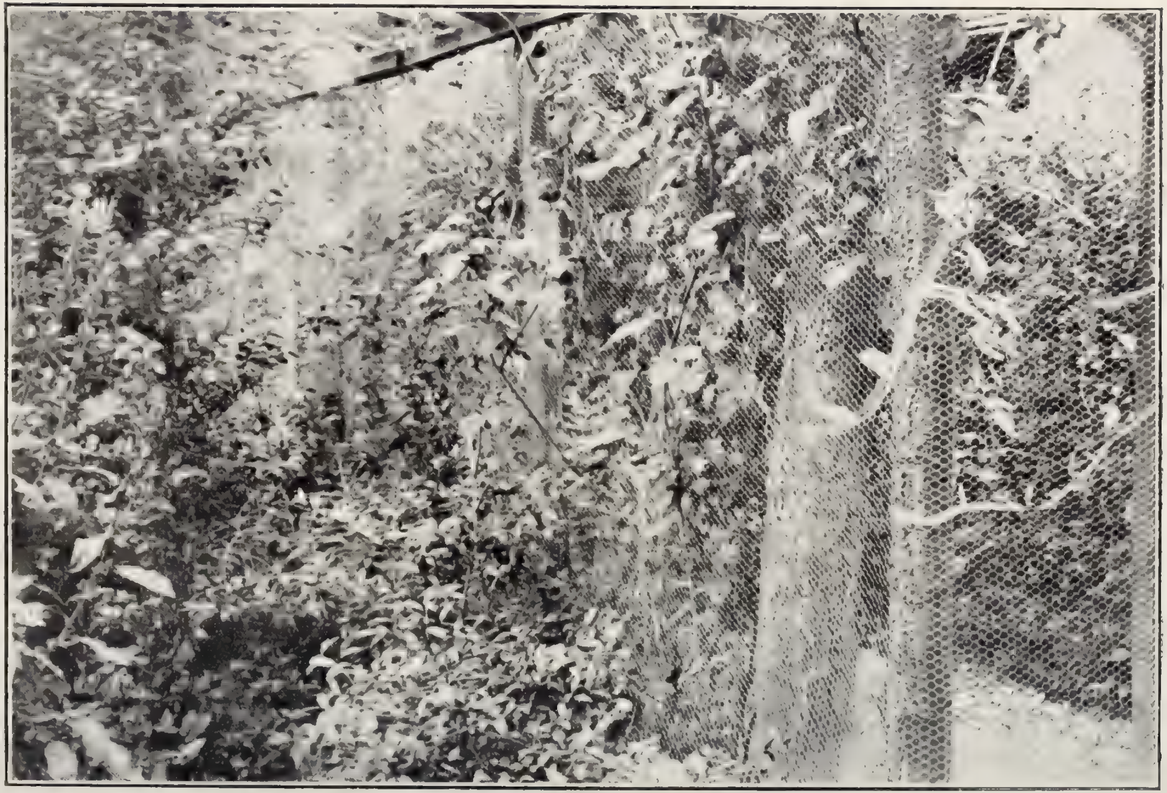


Photo E. O. Page.

Side View through flight of Mr. Page's Aviary No. 4.

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BIRD NOTES:
— THE —
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Pleasures of Aviculture.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

To indicate fully my topic I am giving pre-war experiences, and am quoting from notes taken one sabbath morning in 1913.

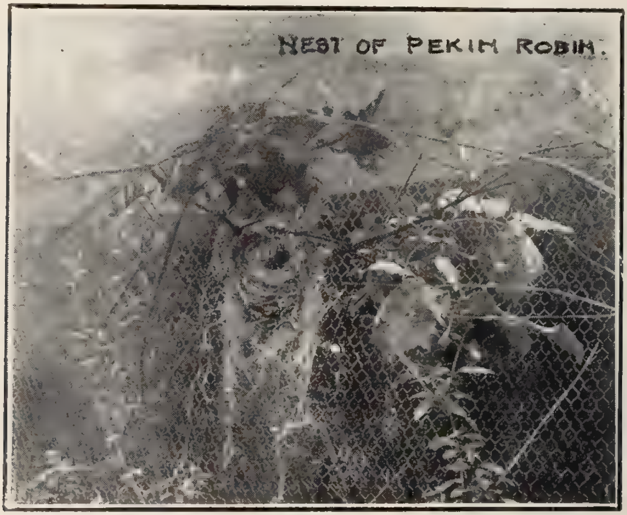
A PRE-WAR REMINISCENCE.

Photo E. O. Page.

Left Figure—Saturnine Mocking-bird,
Right Figure—Garrulous Honey-rater,

One sabbath morning in 1913 found me in a comfortable lounge chair on the lawn in front of my aviary, with a small table at side for my note book, and certain creature comforts; from the notes made then I am now quoting, and the time covered by them is some three or four hours, viz: from about 8 a.m. till noon, than which period there is none better for noting and *enjoying* one's birds.

The population of the aviary passed before me as an ever changing panorama, and, I believe that I saw under varying conditions every occupant of the aviary, many of them being almost continually in the picture. One of the charms and chief interest of a garden aviary lies in seeing the birds amid the foliage, passing in and out of the bushes, enabling one to realise, if only dimly, something of their life history as lived in their native wilds, modified only by the limits of the aviary and available supplies, nesting material, etc. Well do I remember lifting my eyes from my note book after making an entry, wondering what new orange-coloured flower that was growing in front of a privet bush, and how I had missed seeing it before.



I got up to ascertain what it could be, when from the tip of a tall stem of rudbeckia there flew my bachelor Zebra Waxbill and from the midst of the privet bush hopped Mr. Pekin Robin he had a lovely cradle nest therein, with his wife carefully brooding a family of young Pekins; this is *en passant*, and gives some idea of the charms and interesting pleasures of a naturally planted garden aviary, the home of a varied collection of alien, wild feathered creatures of the air.

During the morning while I sat and watched, my interest was held the whole period, for between 8 a.m. and noon the whole of the occupants of the aviary passed as in review before me.

Just near the front of the aviary, in full view, was the dancing-ground of a pair of Jackson's Whydahs, and at intervals the male displayed and went through his interesting performance for his mates' delectation, and incidentally for mine also.

A pair of Malabar Mynahs were foraging and incessantly passing in and out of their nest-barrel with provender for three lusty youngsters.

A family party of Black Tanagers (parents and three young ones) were hopping and flying about a rambler rose densely covering one of the aviary standards, searching for insects, and every now and again descending to the small pond for a bath or drink.

Two family parties of Zebra Finches, the young noisily and incessantly calling to be fed, and what a charming picture they made as their parents satisfied their wants and they disported themselves about the ground herbage and amid the creepers and bushes.

A pair of Grey-wing Ouzels and three young ones, the latter just beginning to look after their own grub, though still occasionally fed by their parents and still keeping together as a family party—now passing out of sight amid the tall grasses and weeds and then in view again probing the ground for worms and other insects.

Then would come into view a pair of Yellow-wing

Photo G. E. Low.

Yellow-wing Sugar-bird.

Sugarbirds, these wee bejewelled creatures of indescribable beauty; now hovering in front of a flower and then winging themselves round the aviary, chasing and capturing midges, small flies, etc., or searching the foliage for blight—words fail one to describe either the beauty of their plumage, graceful contour, flight, or demeanour as they nestled on some twig amid the foliage, preening each others' plumage and saying sweet things to each other.

Equally charming were a pair of Indian White-eyes about the size of Jenny Wren, clad in yellow, grey and olive, with a narrow ring of pure white feathers round each eye, which have earned them their name of White-eyes, and also that of Spectacle birds. They have much of the habits of the Common and Gold-crested Wrens, and spend the live-long day amid the foliage or in the air, foraging for their small insect prey, not despising a large mealworm, or big, fat, juicy grub when such came their way.

Photo E. O. Page.

Nest of Indian White-eye.

But the pride of my collection at this time was a pair of Plumbeous Redstarts, and two Yellow-naped Ixulus, both charming and rare. The former in deportment and general characteristics resemble the English Redstart, and I need say no more to convey the extent to which they held my interest. The Ixulus were very tit-like, disappearing amid the foliage and appearing again in a very mouse-like fashion—not showily clad, but very striking and beautiful in their garments of brown olive-yellow and white--their advent was the first appearance of the species in an English aviary, and they were the gift of my friend and fellow member, the late Lt.-Col. G. A. Perreau.

Photo E. O. Page.

Plumbeous Redstart.

I will not lengthen the story unduly to describe the interest and charm of numerous Grassfinches, Waxbills Weavers, etc., as they came in and disappeared from the picture some new phase of their life-economy being presented with each appearance--thus aviculture never palls upon one, there is always something fresh to see and note, the whole forming a charm of interest and pleasure from January 1st to December 31st—an ever-changing picture as the seasons run their course.

I have not attempted to tell the complete story of that delightful sabbath morn of pre-war times.

Photo E. O. Page.

Pink-browed Rosefinch.

Now the scene is changed; one's aviaries are thinly peopled, very many odd birds prevail, and very little opportunity of finding them mates, yet the pleasure and interest remain, and they help one to forget for a short hour or so the worry and cares and awful strife of " the times."

A SIMILAR EPISODE IN WAR-TIME.

I will now endeavour to describe briefly something of what I saw, and the impression left, during a couple of hours spent in a comfy chair in front of the aviary one sabbath morn of the present summer.

Of course, one cannot speak of the rarities of pre-war times, but nevertheless I found myself held, and was practically dead to the world and its strife, as I sat and watched the wild feathered creatures enjoying liberty in captivity.

In our last issue I described the aviary and gave a list of most of its inhabitants, so that I need only indicate a few birds I still possess. Two photos of the flight interior are given, which indicates its semi-wild and natural condition.

The standard ash tree in the centre of the flight forms a general alighting place and keeps quite a number of birds continually " in the picture," and a very pleasing and interesting picture it is too.

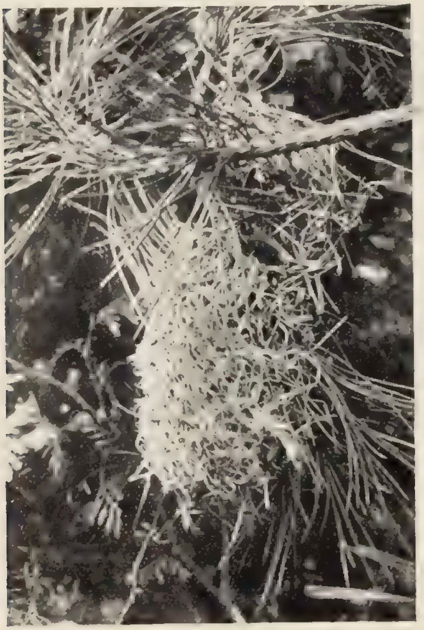
Perhaps at the present time the most striking birds are the Queen Whydahs; they have been in full colour for some couple of months and have caudal plumes quite fourteen inches long, and very beautiful and interesting they look as they wing to and fro, but are specially so when they hover, butterfly-like, as they frequently do, beneath the roof-netting, maintaining an almost perpendicular position while doing so—these have agreed perfectly with the other birds and with each other—alas, the weavers and whydahs have no wives. Another feature of

Photo E. O. Page.

Queen Whydah.

interest is the quivering motion of the racquet-like caudal plumes while the bird is in flight and immediately on alighting.

A thing of "beauty and a joy for ever" while in full colour is my Napoleon Weaver, a bird which was bred in my Mitcham aviary in 1913. As I watched him, for some time he sat in repose on a branch of a privet bush, with only his head visible, his other parts being screened by the foliage, looking very like a brilliant yellow flower till a sudden movement betrayed his identity—then his inertness suddenly ceases and he puffs out his feathers and pours out his heart in Napoleonic weaver's song—thus thoroughly awaked, he sets to, to repair, or add to, one of the many nests with which he has adorned the aviary.


Nest of Red-billed Weaver.

Another lovely bird of the Weaver-tribe is my Speke's Weaver, a lovely bird about the size of the well-known Rufous-necked Weaver and a member of the same genus, but much more brilliantly clad—during the six years the bird has been with me he has spent the whole of his time out of doors, winter and summer alike, and has always appeared vigorous, alert, and apparently quite happy, whatever the weather conditions are. This species has no eclipse plumage like the majority of the Weaver-tribe—there is no more difference between his summer and winter garb than is the case with the English chaffinch. He had never known the joys of married life or built a nest before he came to

Photo E. O. Page.

Nest of Cordon Bleu.

me, with others, as quite a young bird, yet he must have constructed almost hundreds of typical nests since he came to stay with me—so I watched him and soliloquised as he flashed in and out of the picture.

A soft, rich, warbling song draws attention to another inmate, emanating from the centre of a spruce fir, who does not yet show himself, but his voice is well known and always as pleasing to the ear as his beauty is to the eye; 'tis the voice of my Pekin Robin; presently he shows himself, and pours out himself in song. Since 1915 he has lived in single blessedness, which has affected neither his health nor his temper, nor his self-respect, for he is always most excellently groomed, e'en though he has no lady-love to admire his beauty. By voice or person he spent the whole of the two hours with me to my great delight, for he is a favourite of mine, for he is the father of the several broods of young Pekins which were reared in my Mitcham aviary, and I lived those pleasant experiences o'er again.

Photo E. O, Page.

Looking through the Flight from within. No, 4 Aviary.

Also "in the picture" were the Indian Green-winged Doves and beautiful creatures they are too, but as silly (according to human view) as most of their tribe—this particular pair lay eggs, which they persist in laying on the ground in the aviary shelter, for other birds to smash or eat—in only one instance have they succeeded in hatching out, and the young squab made its appearance at the end of last October, but they failed to rear it. The aviary abounds in suitable sites too providing both security and privacy. They are lovely creatures when seen in the sunlight, their refulgent wings passing from the richest of deep grass-greens, through golden-bronze to greenish coppery-bronze according to the angle in which the light strikes it. I admired their beauty and anathematised their stupidity.

Another striking bird is my Virginian Cardinal, who for the span of over seventeen years has lived with the late Tinniswood Miller and myself—yet he shows no signs of senility whatever; his legs and feet would do credit to a young bird, and the deep rich scarlet plumage is as tight and silky as could be desired. He too favoured me with his song before appearing in person and when thus favouring me, at first only a sort of half view through a leafy screen, making a grand contrast of scarlet and green. He apparently attitudinises before one on a branch, indulges in a flight and repeats the performance finally settling down in absolute pose, apparently oblivious to all, yet, for all that very alert. Mephistophelian his appearance, amiable his character, strikingly handsome—"handsome is that handsome does." During the more than twelve years he has lived with me, his only weakness having been that *very* occasionally he fancied the egg of some other bird for breakfast.

Then my Cherry Finch shows herself amid the front foliage of the privet bush; she lost her lord and master in that severe frost of mid-June, the only victim of the fell destroyer who had spent the previous winter out of doors—all the other victims having wintered in warm quarters. The Cherry Finch is a modest and retiring bird, which only favours one with occasional and very short intervals in which to admire their beauty. Both last year and this they nested and laid, but never hatched out any young, though their eggs were mostly fertile.

Though they are not often on view, they are charming amid the greenery of a natural aviary.

Also a pair of Crimson Finches, of great beauty and interest, showed themselves again and again I smiled at their tails, all curled as if done up nightly in paper, but this bespoke not vanity, but persistent incubation, but, alas! no young have been reared; yet they are in the finest possible condition. This species rightly has a reputation for abnormal pugnacity, but there are exceptions to all rules, and mine are an exemplary pair.

Photo E. O. Page.

Nest of Olive Finch in seeding head of docks.

What of the other birds? Well, they all passed in review, were watched and thought about, and, as with the above, their history, while with me, meditated upon—but the limit of space has been reached (*passed*) and I must leave to my readers' imagination the pleasing interest they created.

Such brief spells of quiet restfulness are like oases in the midst of these troubled times—one forgets the burden of care, suffering, worry and strife, even though the dull, far distant boom of the Flanders' guns was continuously in mine ear the whole time, and one rose rested and refreshed.

Though the latter account lacked the intense interest of the family parties of pre-war times, and was largely of a collection of bachelor birds, yet the pleasure and interest was there and again and again plans and resolves to mature when peace once more reigns, made for the writer a short period—one of many similar ones—of unalloyed pleasure and interest, little, if any, inferior to similar ones of happier days; though, of course, avicultural data was little, if at all, increased.

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Nesting Notes, Etc.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

I wonder whether any aviculturist with a big collectior of foreign birds has ever seen his dreams for an approaching breeding season come true? "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and as each season comes round I conjure up rosy visions of large broods successfully reared by every potential breeding pair. How sadly do the modest results fall short of what I had hoped for! Still, one lives and learns and profits by the lessons of past failures, and each season sees me just a trifle nearer to the breeding season of success without disappointment.

This year I *hoped* to have broods as under:

Bourke's Parrakeets *(Neophema bourkei)*—1.
Blue-winged Grass Parrakeets *(N. venusta)*—2 or 3.
Many-colour Parrakeets *(Psephotus multicolor)*—1.
Barraband's Parrakeets *(Polytelis barrabandi)*—4.
Yellow-bellied Parrakeets *(Platycercus flaviventris)*—1.

Brown's Parrakeets *(P. browni)*—1.
Blue-bonnet Parrakeets *(Psephotus haematonotus)*—1.
Pennants Parrakeets *(Platycercus elegans)*—1.
Yellow-mantled × Common Rosella Parrakeets *(P. splendidus × P. eximius)*—1.
Stanley's Parrakeets *(P. icterotis)*—4.
Bauer's Parrakeets *(Barnardius zonarius)*—1.
Yellow-naped Parrakeets *(B. semitorquatus)*—1.
Barnard's Parrakeets *(B. barnardi)*—1.
Pileated Parrakeets*(Porphyrocephalus spurius)*—1.
Lutino African Ring-neck Parrakeets *(Palaeornis docilis,* var.*)*—1.
Green African Ring-neck Parrakeets *(P. docilis)*—1.
Lutino Indian Ring-neck Parrakeets *(Palaeornis torquatus,* var.*)*—1.
Lutino Alexandrine Parrakeets *(P. alexandri,* var.*)*—1.
Lutino Blossom-head Parrakeets *(P. cyanocephalus,* var.*)*—1.
King Parrakeets *(Aprosmictus cyanopygius)*—1.
Blue Budgerigars *(Melopsittacus undulatus* var. *caerulea)* 1.
Hybrid Swainson's × Blue-faced Lorikeets *(Trichoglossus Novaehollandiae × T. haemotodes)*—1.
Black Cockatoos *(Calyptorhynchus stellatus)*—1.

My hopes re the last two species were governed by *perhaps* (Of course in one's dreams no brood consists of less than four young birds, where parrakeets or most finches are concerned), I did *not* expect a brood of Queen Alexandra Parrakeets.

My realised hopes are:

Broods
of
Blue-winged Grass Parrakeets—2—of five each.
Barraband's Parrakeets—2—one bird in each.
Stanley's Parrakeets—3—eight young birds surviving.
Lutino Ring-neck Parrakeets—1—two young birds surviving.
Queen Alexandra Parrakeets—1—one young bird.
Yellow-mantled × Rosella Parrakeets—1—one young bird reared, but now dead.

My hopes with regard to Bourke's were dashed early in the spring by the death of my only hen; she and her mate had wintered out of doors.

The Blue-wings came nearest to realising my forecast, all three hens going to nest. One, who has a foot missing, had clear eggs; her companion (who was paired to the same cock who had been wintered out of doors), was the mother of five, but unfortunately succumbed to congestion of the lungs during the wet weather in July. The cock, it is interesting to note, had proved infertile as long as he was caged indoors for the winter The old breeding pair have also five young; one of the parents lost the use of its legs not long ago, but happily has recovered again.

Two pairs of Barraband's only, went to nest; one had five eggs and hatched out three young ones, but two were accidentally crushed owing to the nest box being too small. We tried to hand-rear the third, but it did not take at all kindly to the process, and it was found necessary to return it to its parents who reared it in a larger nest. The other hen laid two eggs and hatched out and reared one chick.

The Brown's turned out to be two hens, so naturally *they* did not add to the population of the aviaries! I wonder why hen Brown's are so much more numerous than cocks?

The Pennants' nested and their eggs were fertile, but the young were dead in the shell; the hen was a new arrival and had been caged all the winter, which probably accounts for the results not being better.

The Yellow-mantled and Rosella only hatched out one egg. The hen plucked the young bird rather badly in the nest, but it was reared and lived for some weeks, dying suddenly one morning from peritonitis, to the great grief of its parents, and particularly of its father, who was very devoted to his only child It used to be very pretty to see him, when, on first leaving the nest, it scrambled uncomfortably about on the wire netting near the top of the flight, trying to show it the way to the perch, by calling to it to attract its attention and then jumping off the perch on to a branch just below to show it how easy it was to get down. Contrary to the popular idea, birds are usually very stupid about helping their young when they get into awkward situations, and can neither extricate them nor show them how to extricate themselves.

One pair of Stanley's did not nest at all; two pairs reared five each, some of which were lost after getting on the wing; the fourth pair reared a single young one. One of the hens is sitting on a second nest of four eggs.

The Bauer's got no further than examining their nest box (which may have been too small for them), and the Barnard's, Blue-bonnets, Many-colours, and Yellow-bellies did likewise.

The Pileateds hatched out one young one, but accidentally crushed it when half grown, owing to the nest-box being too small; they laid again, but did not sit as the moult was coming on.

The lutino African Ring-neck laid early in March and got egg-bound, so that I had to put her in a warm room to save her. She passed her egg all right, but, of course, was too upset to sit. When she had recovered and was beginning to show signs of wishing to nest I gave orders that she was to be returned to the aviary with her mate; (he had insisted on sharing her spell of captivity, actually squeezing himself under the catching net when he saw that his wife was likely to be taken away from him). Unfortunately, in letting the birds out of the cage, the gardener caught the hen's leg in the sliding door and broke it; he tried to set it, but was not successful, and some weeks later the hen hung herself up by her injured leg in a crack of the woodwork, and, though she managed to get free, was found dead next morning from shock and loss of blood—a sad ending to a beautiful and almost unique bird.

The other pair of African Ring-necks had young dead in the shell; they were nearly related, which perhaps accounts for the embryos being weak.

The Indian Lutino Ring-neck reared three green young ones, one of which died on leaving the nest. I hope to get lutinos by mating them with each other or with the old hen. One expects to get coloured young from an albino parent in the first generation.

The Alexandrines did not nest—I think I got them too late in the year.

The Blossom-heads hatched three young and accidentally crushed them when half-grown, owing to the nest being too small; I have learned a lesson about nest-boxes this year, which will last me as long as I live!

The Blue Budgerigars and King Parrakeets showed no inclination to nest, neither have the Black Cockatoos this season. The cocks of the two first have unfortunately died of chills caught during the moult.

The lorikeets have laid several times at all periods of the year; if they had been Paradise or Turquoisine Parrakeets they would long ago have driven me mad, but as I do not very much care whether they rear young or not, I am merely resigned at their vagaries. At first they used to break their eggs at different stages of incubation (either by having bouts of Ju-jitzu on the top of them, or by opening them to look at and taste their contents). This spring they left them till they were about to hatch before chewing them up, and their final effort has been to hatch two chicks, the first of which they killed when a day old and the second when nearly half-grown.

A pair of Peach-faced Lovebirds, which last year reared two young birds in a large cage, had their first lot of eggs with young dead in the shell. The second clutch hatched, but the hen killed all the young by biting the ends of their wings and feet. I do not think she really meant to hurt them, as she brooded and fed them, but was probably prompted by a morbid instinct, the result of too close confinement: she always used to pluck her mate's feathers to line the nest, no matter how much material we gave her.

I have had bad luck with my Hooded Parrakeets this year. The changeable weather in July caught them in the middle of the moult, and I lost two out of three hens from inflammation of the lungs. One had laid several times and the other was a young bird I had bred last autumn. I had another cock and hen ill, because, on being moved to a new aviary, they insisted on roosting, clinging to the open wire-netting in all weathers; fortunately they have recovered and are showing signs of wishing to nest, but I fear they will be too late, since I dare not let the hen lay when the nights begin to get chilly, as the species is very subject to egg-binding.

The Queen Alexandras, as I have already said, I had small hopes of, as the hen came to me with the reputation of being a bad sitter and her eggs had proved infertile. She never, moreover, looked quite as fit as the cock. The pair had been wintered in a big outdoor aviary and were given plenty of mealworms, of which they were extremely fond. Early in the year the cock came into breeding condition, but as the hen would have nothing to do with him, he took a great dislike to her, biting her when she came near him, and continually trying to get to the lutino ring-neck in the next compartment; when the ring-neck began to sit, he transferred his affections to a hen Barraband's on the other side, and took not the slightest notice of his own wife, who by this time was going to the nest-box herself. She laid two soft-shelled eggs and one shelled one upon which she sat steadily the full time, but without result as was not to be wondered at. I imagined that nesting was over for the year, but to my great surprise the hen Alexandra laid a second time, again only one egg having a proper shell. We had removed all female society likely to interest the unfaithful husband, but his attitude towards his wife showed but little improvement, and it came as a great surprise to me when I heard that the egg had hatched. The young bird fell out of the nest when half-grown, but fortunately was none the worse for the accident and in due course was fully reared by its mother. The male never displayed the least interest in his child, and the most that can be said for him is that he does not molest it. The young bird differs very little from the adults in plumage.

The hen Gouldian Finch died in the early summer, soon after being put out. A pair of Violet-eared Waxbills, bought a few months ago on arrival in England, built a very pretty nest a few weeks later and laid four eggs, which unluckily proved infertile. They nested a second time, but the cock died as soon as the hen began to sit.

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity

By Dr. E. Hopkinson. D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(Continued from page 191).

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58—9.

131.—NUTMEG FINCH. *M. punctulata.* **W.T.P.**
See B.N. 1901, 6. 52.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.

NUTMEG FINCH × BIB FINCH.
1st Shore Baily, 1914. See B.N. January inset, and also p. 42.

NUTMEG FINCH × STRIATED FINCH. Abroad. W.T.P. C.
,, ,, × BENGALI.
W.T.P. Shore Baily, 1914. See B.N. 1915, p. 42.
Abroad. "Recorded by Russ." †Butler. A.M. 1. c. supra

NUTMEG FINCH × BRONZE MANNIKIN. W.T.P.
,, ,, × AFRICAN SILVERBILL.
W.T.P.
Abroad. "Recorded by Russ" †Butler. 1. c.
× Nutmeg Finch (Striated Finch).
× Nutmeg Finch (Bengali).
× Nutmeg Finch (African Silverbill).

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132.—PECTORAL FINCH. *M. pectoralis.* **W.T.P.**
Howard Williams, 1905. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s. iv. 68.

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133.—STRIATED FINCH. *Uroloncha striata.* **W.T.P.**
Willford, 1909. See B.N. 1909, 328.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
Hybrids.

STRIATED FINCH × CHESTNUT FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. "Recorded by Russ" †Butler. A.M. n.s. iv 351

STRIATED FINCH × SHARP-TAILED FINCH.
W.T.P. and see Butler. A.M. 1. c.
,, ,, × BENGALI.
W.T.P. Teschemaker, fertile hybrids, †A.G.B. i. 177. (But these would not be true hybrids if, as is probable, the BENGALI is a domesticated STRIATED FINCH. See Butler. A.M. n.s. iv. 351

STRIATED FINCH × MAJA FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. "Recorded by Russ" †Butler. 1. c.

STRIATED FINCH × NUTMEG FINCH.
W.T.P.
Abroad. "Recorded by Russ" †Butler. 1. c.

STRIATED FINCH × AFRICAN SILVERBILL.
W.T.P.
Abroad. "Recorded by Russ" †Butler. 1. c.

STRIATED FINCH × PARSON FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. "Recorded by Russ" †Butler 1. c.
× Striated Finch (Bengali) See above. STRIATED × BENGALI.
× Striated Finch (Maja Finch).
× Striated Finch. var. (Maja Finch).
× Striated Finch (Chestnut Finch).
× Striated Finch (Nutmeg Finch)
× Striated Finch (African Silverbill).

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134.—BENGALI (probably *U. striata.* var. See above under STRIATED FINCH × BENGALI). **W.T.P.**

Frequently bred.

Abroad. First bred in Japan †Russ; and see Gedney: Trans. C. B. Club, vol. ii.

HYBRIDS.

BENGALI × SHARP-TAILED FINCH. W.T.P.
,, × STRIATED FINCH. W.T.P. (and see above under STRIATED FINCH × BENGALI).
,, × NUTMEG FINCH. W.T.P.
,, × BRONZE MANNIKIN.
Abroad. Baldelli in Italy, fertile hybrids. †Butler. 1. A.M. 1. c.

BENGALI × BIB FINCH.
Poltimore. See B.N. 1914. 14.

BENGALI × CHESTNUT FINCH.
"Recorded by Hawkins," Butler. A.M. 1. c.

BENGALI × CANARY. See note at end of CANARY Hybrids.
× Bengali (Bronze Mannikin).
× Bengali (Bronze Mannikin—Bengali Hybrid).
× Bengali (Magpie Mannikin).
× Bengali (Tricoloured Mannikin).
× Bengali (Sharp-tailed Finch).
× Bengali (Striated Finch). See under STRIATED FINCH × BENGALI
× Bengali (Nutmeg Finch).
× Bengali (African Silverbill).
× Bengali (Parson Finch).
× Bengali (Chestnut Finch).

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135.—SHARP-TAILED FINCH. *U. acuticauda.*

Suggitt, 1914. See B.N. 1915, 282 and January inset.

HYBRIDS.

SHARP-TAILED × STRIATED FINCH.
W.T.P. and see Butler. A.M. n.s. iv. 352.

SHARP-TAILED × BENGALI.
W.T.P. Bred by Butler. †A.G.B. i. 177.

SHARP-TAILED × AFRICAN SILVERBILL.
W.T.P. and see Butler A.M. 1. c.
× Sharp-tailed Finch (Striated Finch).
× Sharp-tailed Finch (Bengali).
× Sharp-tailed Finch (African Silverbill).

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136.—CHERRY FINCH. *Aidemosyne modesta.* **W.T.P.**
By Cronkshaw, 1895. See A.M. ii. 30.
Abroad. 1st Bargheer †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

CHERRY FINCH × MASKED GRASSFINCH. W.T.P.

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137.—INDIAN SILVERBILL. *A. malabarica.* **W.T.P.**
Teschemaker, 1895. †A.G.R. i. 174.
Abroad, 1st Bolle †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

INDIAN SILVERBILL × BIB FINCH.
W.T.P. Butler. A.M. 1. c.

INDIAN SILVERBILL × CHOCOLATE MANNIKIN.
W.T.P. In *The Feathered World*, August 30, 1901., 2 broods are recorded.
× Indian Silverbill (African Silverbill).
× Indian Silverbill (Bib Finch).
× Indian Silverbill (Chestnut Finch).

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138.—AFRICAN SILVERBILL. *A. cantans.* **W.T.P.**
By Farrar. 1896. See A.M. ii. and A.G.B. i. 174.
Abroad. 1st Bolle †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

AFRICAN SILVERBILL × OLIVE FINCH. *(Euethia olivacea: Fringillidæ).*
1st Easton Scott. See B.N. 1910. 230.

AFRICAN SILVERBILL × INDIAN SILVERBILL.
W.T.P.
Abroad †Russ. ?which way (A.G.B.).

AFRICAN SILVERBILL × SHARP-TAILED FINCH.
W.T.P. By Dell †Butler. A.M. 1. c.

To be continued.

Breeding Shamahs—A Tale of Woe.

By G. E. Low.

After a very successful breeding season in 1917, when my pair of Indian Shamahs *(Cittocincla macrura)* fully reared eleven young (five pairs and an odd hen) my experiences this year have been so very unfortunate, that, although the recording of one's failures is not at all congenial, I am writing this account of them in the hope that some of our more experienced members may kindly be able to suggest where I went wrong, and thereby enable me, and perhaps others, to avoid similar failures in future.

I started this season with my old pair of birds and a young hen—one of their family of last season, mated to an unrelated cock, which I secured in exchange for a younger bird, through the kindness of Mr. E. W. Harper.

The young hen had remained out of doors in an unheated aviary all last winter, and I introduced the cock at the end of April. Building soon commenced, and a comfortable nest was constructed by the hen (with no previous experience) in a nesting box, but no eggs were laid. Shortly after this I turned out the old pair into the adjoining aviary, when a terrible battle took place through the wire netting between the cocks, the hens cheering them on, and subsequently joining in the fury themselves.

As I foresaw that breeding under these conditions was out of the question I removed the younger pair, nesting box and all, to a smaller aviary about ten yards away, preferring to leave the old pair in their last year's quarters.

The latter went to nest at once—the first egg being laid on 3rd May. Three young were hatched on 19th May (one egg proved infertile and one failed to hatch). Of these three one was thrown out when a few days old, the remaining two leaving the nest without such assistance on 1st and 3rd June respectively.

One of these—a rather weakly baby—was choked next day by a mouthful of hay with which its mother intended to renew the nest, but in a fit of abstraction dumped down in the wrong place.

The parents immediately proceeded to nest again, and the first egg in the second clutch was laid on 7th June. Four young were hatched out on 22nd and 23rd June, two of which were cast out at about three days and a week old, and I noticed the parents were attending to the feeding of the remaining two in a very perfunctory manner, the hen sitting constantly on the nest, only leaving it to feed herself, and the cock carrying very little food.

At this juncture I decided to try to hand-rear these young ones, and removed them from the nest. One which was rather far gone died the same day. The other lived for two days, being fed principally on live ants' eggs. I noticed it had some difficulty in swallowing, and a postmortem I held revealed the fact that a stiff grass stalk, about 1½ inches long, was lodged low down in the throat where the neck joins the body, probably introduced by one of the callous parents.

Meanwhile the young pair went to nest after debating the matter for about six weeks. The first egg was laid on 14th June, and three youngones were hatched on 28th and 29th June. Both parents fed these splendidly for the first three days, and I felt sure they would rear them, but, alas! two young were thrown out on the fourth day. I rescued one, and after removing the cock replaced it in the nest. The mother, however, again threw it out, and I then made an attempt to hand-rear it without success.

The remaining youngster was carefully looked after by the mother for another day, when it was cast out also. I picked it up alive, and as it was in fine condition the quills on the wings well developed, thought I had a sporting chance of rearing it. I transferred it to a small tin box with perforated lid lined with cotton wool, on which a piece of lint was laid, and kept it in my pocket for warmth. This young one gaped well for food, and fearing to leave it out of my care I carried it to my office in Dublin next day. After feeding it on my arrival there I left the box on its side, on a shelf in the window, with the baby fast asleep in it. I turned away for a few seconds to speak to a friend, and on looking back, was horrified to see the box empty and the young bird just expiring on the floor where it had fallen after crawling some distance across the shelf.

This was the bitterest disappointment of all, as I think I had a very fair chance of rearing this bird, although only just a week old.

At this time I left home for about three weeks, and during my absence the old pair again went to nest. Three eggs were laid, and then the hen, (I think the hens only were responsible for removing the young on every occasion) thinking to further simplify matters, on this occasion threw out one of the *eggs*, after sitting for about a week.

She then ceased to sit altogether, and that finished the programme of both pairs for this season, as, although I had reintroduced the cock in the other aviary, there was no further attempt at breeding, and both cocks are now commencing to moult.

As a result of the four nestings of two pairs of birds, I was therefore left with one young one on the wing—not a creditable performance and neither I nor the parents are in the least proud of it.

My ill luck, however, hadn't yet deserted me, as I found the sole remaining young bird dead in the adjoining aviary to-day (5th August) where she had been with some other birds for about six weeks. I was greatly puzzled to account for her death, as she showed no signs of illness, and appeared to be in the best of form, but on holding a postmortem, the cause surely a very strange one -was revealed—a piece of stout white twine, such as parcels are commonly tied with, *11 inches long*, with a double knot at one end which entirely filled the gizzard and which the unfortunate little bird could not by any means have got rid of. Where she picked it up I don't know, and how she swallowed it I am never likely to be able to discover, but this tragedy is a fitting termination to my other misfortunes, of which I think it may be admitted I have had an undue share this season.

I may add that the food supplied consisted of live ants' cocoons, cockroaches, gentles and mealworms, and the parents were never without an ample supply of at least two of this selection at a time. They had their respective quarters entirely to themselves, and were treated on exactly the same lines as last season.

Can it be that the fact of having two pairs nesting within ten yards, although out of sight of one another, was responsible for the throwing out of the young? I rather incline to the belief that it was. The cocks were constantly hurling songs at one another from early morning on, and could never for a moment have been ignorant of one another's close proximity

High condition is, I know, usually advanced as the cause of this excessive anxiety to get the existing family out of the way in order to go to nest again. Possibly it is a contributing cause, but how can high condition be avoided where unlimited live food must be supplied to feed the young?

Correspondence.

THE SEASON'S RESULTS.

Sir,—I got back here after my short holiday, and found nothing of special interest, but the birds are still going on breeding. So far, I have the following birds fully reared and flying strongly, and I think there is nothing to grumble about:

Zebra Finches, about 20.
Diamond Finches, 5.
Long-tailed Grassfinches, 11.
Sydney Waxbills, 4.
Pope Cardinals, 2.
Green Cardinals, 3.
Diamond Doves, 3.
Geoffroy's Doves, 6.
Red-Mountain Doves, 1.
Cockateels, 2.

Two Masked Doves *(Oena capensis)* were fully reared and feeding themselves, but the Diamond Doves have killed them since their own young came out, and the first young Green Cardinal was killed in a similar manner —they should have been removed. There are numbers of young Budgerigars, and many Grassfinches are still nesting, including three pairs of Gouldian Finches. An Orange Bishop has mated with five different weaver hens (do not know the species of all of them); there are two nests in the grass and two more in privet bushes, but I do not know if there are any eggs—am watching how things go on; I think one of the nests belongs to a hen Crimson-crowned Weaver.

Cressington Park, August 8th, 1918. H. E. BRIGHT.

[Part of a private letter, not written for publication.—Ed.]

A later letter (Sep. 3rd) gives the following *additional* results:

Masked Doves, 1.
Green Cardinal, 1.
Pope Cardinal, 1.
Zebra Finches, 10.
Diamond Finches, 4.
Brush Bronze-wing Doves, 1.
Geoffroy's Doves, 2.
Peach-faced Lovebirds, 1.
Long-tailed Grassfinches, 3.

Mr. Bright states that Gouldian (2 nests) and other Grassfinches have young in the nest.—Ed.

Errata: Title to frontispiece in last issue *No. 1. Aviary*, should read *No. 4 Aviary*.

Page 180, line 6 from bottom, *Neochinia* should read *Neochmia*.

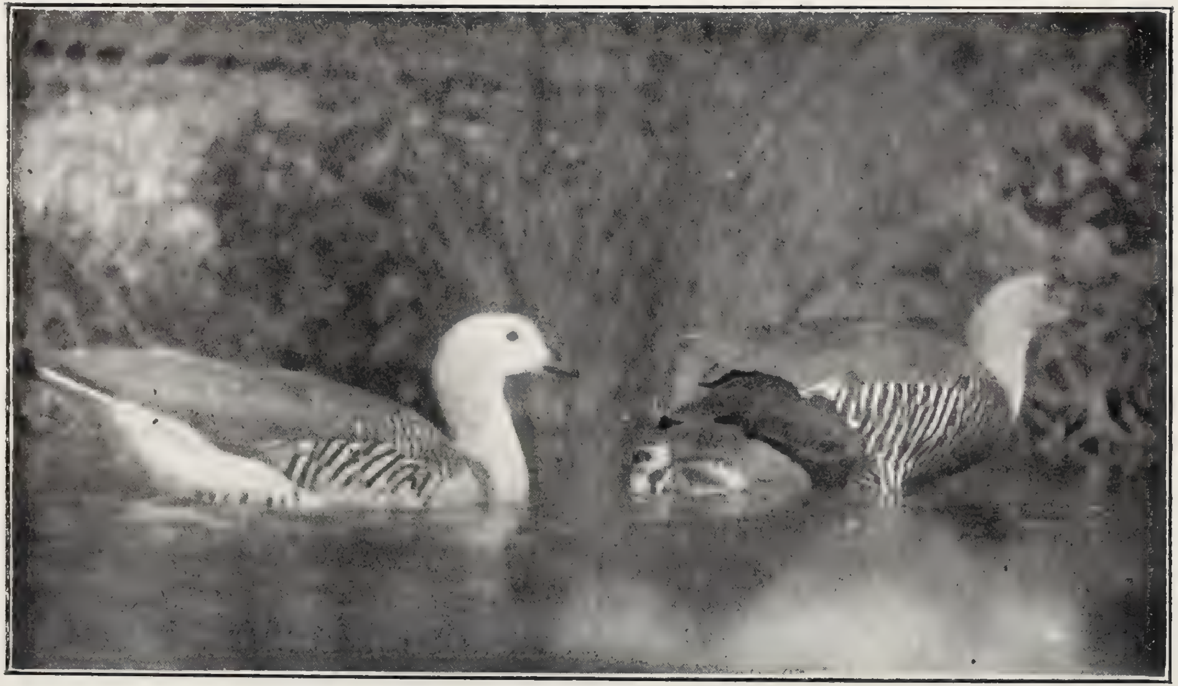

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Patagonian Geese and Young.

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BIRD NOTES:
— THE —
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Patagonian and Egyptian Geese.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

In these war-times with their multitudinous restrictions as to feeding live stock, unless one has a large pond, it is almost an offence against D.O.R.A. to keep anything in the water-fowl line except geese. These birds, being grass-eaters, can be kept on any waste bit of land, with practically no expense, and as they will flourish with very little water, many people can keep and breed them, who could not succeed with ducks. For many years now I have had one or more pairs of Magellan Geese, in my opinion the most attractive of all water-fowl. It is hard to say which is the more handsome, the gander in his black and white plumage, or the goose with her dress of chocolate and black. Both are very beautiful birds. The one drawback to keeping them is their quarrelsome disposition, which makes it necessary, if more than one pair is kept, to confine them in the breeding season in different pens. At this period the males are sometimes savage with human beings. One gander that I kept for more than ten years would invariably assault my housekeeper, and, as he was full-winged, he was quite a dangerous adversary. This bird used to take long flights, visiting farmyards, assaulting the farmers' ducks and geese, and otherwise making himself a nuisance, so I finally had to have his wings cut. At last he got into trouble, receiving a kick from my pony, whose heels he was fond of biting. This broke his thigh quite close to his body, and as we were not particularly successful in setting it, he carried one leg at nearly right angles to the other for the rest of his life. This accident didn't cure him of his pugnacity, but greatly handicapped him in his numerous fights. These geese, in captivity at any rate, are poor parents. For several years young have been hatched here, but all have died at about one month old, or younger. This year two geese nested; one had her nest destroyed by rats, and the others' eggs I removed and put under a hen. One young one only was hatched, and this is now nearly as large as its mother. I found that whilst with the hen it would eat almost anything that she did, whereas those left with their parents in previous years would eat nothing but grass. When the little one was about six weeks old, the hen started laying, and went off one day to her old home to deposit her egg in her old

Photo. *W. Shore Baily.*

Egyptian Geese displaying.

nesting-box. The gosling followed, and of course got lost, and all our efforts to find it proved unsuccessful. Two days later, after we had given up all hopes of seeing it again, a boy

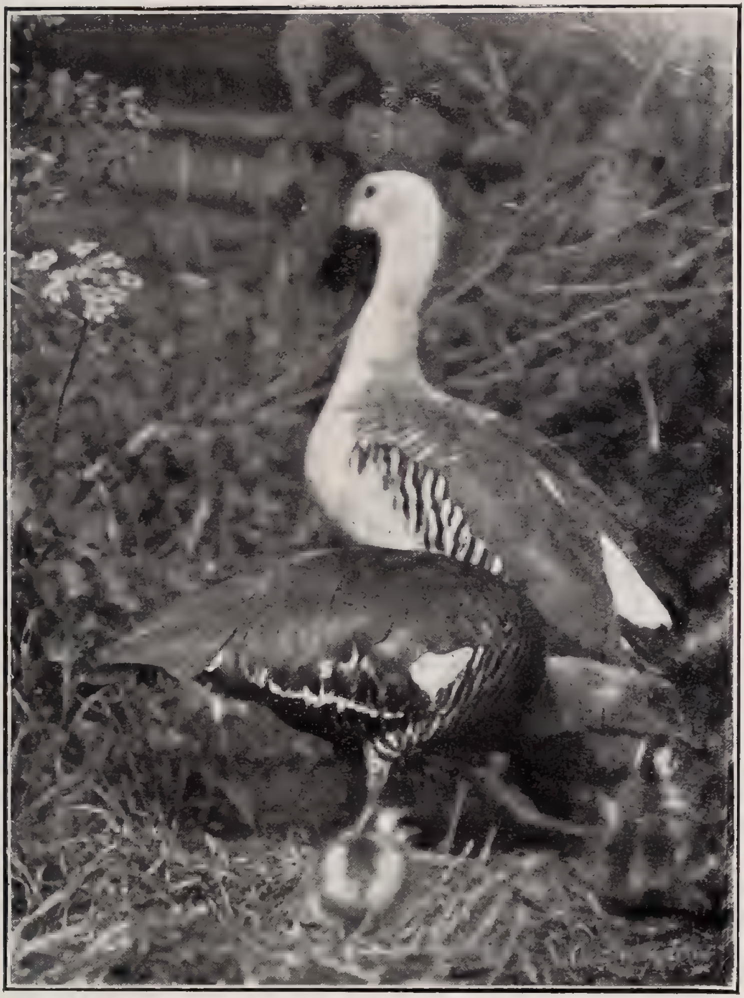

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Patagonian Geese and Young.

arrived at the door with the little bird in his arms, having found it in a meadow quite half a mile from its home. Last week it had another adventure. Someone left the door of its pen open, and it wandered into the one in which its parents were kept. These promptly went for it with murderous intent, and the little goose then learnt what wings were meant for, as it promptly took flight, looking very handsome, when high in the air, against the blue sky. The next day it was found with a neighbouring farmer's fowls, and was easily captured. These geese have a loud clangorous call, frequently heard at night. That of the female is much harsher than that of the male, and neither bird's voice is as musical as that of our wild grey geese. I have not heard the young bird give tongue yet.

Another variety that I have bred is the Egyptian. These are pretty birds, closely allied to our Shelduck, with which bird they have, I believe, crossmated. These birds are also great fighters, both amongst themselves and with allied species, but they make up for this fault by being excellent parents. My birds used to lead their young ones from their pond, across a road into a neighbouring meadow, and easily managed to drive away the dogs that infested the highway. I neglected to pinion the last lot of young ones bred, and these finally left me for other shores, where no doubt they were shot by some pot hunter or collector. These young birds, when fully grown, used to roost upon the apex of the roof of their shelter. I have no doubt that in their native haunts they would be found sunning themselves upon the dead branches of trees along the river banks. In the breeding season they have a curious habit of displaying to each other by spreading their wings to their full extent, and pointing their beaks to the heavens, all the time gabbling in the most vociferous manner.

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The Birds of Tasmania.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

The following notes are largely a compilation from *A NATURALIST IN TASMANIA*, by Geoffrey Smith, M.A My only regret is that space does not permit me to include more, as the admirable description of the country, which forms the context of the all too brief bird notes, is very vivid and realistic, and enables one to envisage the various birds in their native haunts. Many of the birds enumerated are well known to the readers of Bird Notes as inhabitants of their aviaries, and many of the rarer birds we have made the acquaintance of at the London Zoo, and in the aviaries of a few wealthy collectors.

After describing the " English appearance " of the buildings, gardens, and even landscape, in the portion of his book dealing with *Hobart and the Midlands*, principally owing to the sandstone and tiled houses, and the English flowers cultivated in the gardens, and the trees—oaks, poplars, elms, pines, hawthorn hedges and the willows which adorn the banks of the rivers and streams; the, Author fully describes the fauna geology, etc., of the district.

With this introduction I will quote the Author in his first brief note of the bird-life of Hobart and the Midlands.

" The illusion that I was in England was very strong one sunny " afternoon as I sat outside a village inn upon the Brown's river road. " Looking up and down the street one could see nothing but English " flowers and trees; sparrows pecked about on the road and a flock of " starlings passed every now and again overhead, and a number of gold- " finches were busy looking for seed in an adjoining field. Some " swallows swept round the eaves of the house, not genuine English " swallows these, but ' Welcome Swallows " all the same, which come to " Tasmania in the spring in the orthodox manner to nest, and go north " instead of south when winter comes; and once a whirring flght of swifts " swept past, swifts which visit Tasmania for two months in the middle " of the Antarctic summer, and go north to Japan to breed . . . . . " but one must not exaggerate the English appearance of the landscape, " which really does not extend beyond the immediate neighbourhood of " the villages. . In the open country one soon recognises the character- " istic Australian vegetation, so utterly unlike the fresh green of Europe. ' Everywhere the dominant trees are Eucalypts of which there several " hundred species . . . . The flowers of the Eucalypts, " which are very sweet-smelling, and attract by their honey swarms of " insects and honey-eating birds, form dense clusters of feathery spikes " in the form of bottle-brushes . . . . In the open lands and " cultivated districts of which we are speaking, there are one or two ' characteristic birds which will at once strike the eye of a visitor. The " native Magpie *(Gymnorhina organicum)*, really a Crow Shrike, is a fine " black and white bird with a very melodious voice, but its song is more in "the nature of an experiment than a finished work of art; in captivity, "however, it will learn to whistle almost any tune, and I was surprised "in the bush by an escaped pet whistling 'don't want to play in your "yard,' regarding me the while with a knowing expression."

"Another very beautiful bird which haunts the lightly timbered "sandstone country and is even common in orchards, where it makes "considerable depredations among the fruit, is the Rosella Parrakeet with "the head and breast of a brilliant scarlet. Nothing is more beautiful "than to see these birds dashing about in the sunlight from tree to tree; "the brilliant scarlet plumage appears to annoy some of the other birds, "and I have seen small flocks of Miners, inconspicuous grey birds of about "the size of a Mistle-thrush, with yellow bills, belonging to the large "Australian family of the *Meliphagidae* or Honey-eaters, chasing a Rosella "Parrakeet with the greatest anger, though of course they were incapable "of doing it any hurt."

Some years ago I kept a solitary specimen of the Sombre Miner *(Manorhina obscura)* in an aviary occupied by Rosella Parrakeets, Cockateels, Budgerigars, Black-headed Sibias, Grey-winged Ouzels, three species of Cardinals and a Rosy Pastor. The Miner, though quite capable of looking after itself, never mobbed or interfered with any of the other birds, and in the aviary it certainly was not inconspicuous, but a very beautiful bird, though, of course, compared with the gorgeous avifauna of Australia it is inconspicuous and sombre.

"Another brilliantly coloured bird, with red and blue plumage, "which I met only on Bruny Island (but it is, I believe, common elsewhere) "is the small Swift Parrakeet: this bird resorts in small flocks to the Gum-"trees when in flower and feeds on the honey. On the rather remote "sheep-runs flocks of the large Yellow-crested White Cockatoo may be "seen. They are birds which always have sentinels to warn them of "approaching danger . . . . . the stubbles are full of Quail. "Walking in the old walled orchard one is transported back to the home "counties of England, save that the blue wings of the Parrots dash in and "out among the trees and the metallic song of the native Magpie falls "upon the ear . . . . . . During my ramble about the mountain "(Mt. Wellington) I met with many Tasmanian birds, and some of the "more characteristic may be mentioned. In wandering through it will "at once strike the traveller from the home country how comparatively "tame the birds are, probably owing to their less acquaintance with "civilized man and his exterminating propensities. Many of the birds, "which I will now mention are, of course, not confined to Mount Welling-"ton, but may be found all over the country wherever suitable conditions "prevail."

"A great many of the Tasmanian species also occur on the mainland

" of Australia, but a considerable portion are distinct species, with very " closely related forms upon the other side of Bass's Straits. The most " characteristic family of birds which haunt the Tasmanian and Australian " forests is that of the *Meliphagidae* or Honey-eaters, a family of Passerine " birds, which take the place in Australasia which is filled by the Humming " birds in tropical South America. The *Meliphagidae* include a great " number of genera of various size and appearance, the majority being small, " but a few, such as the peculiar Wattle-bird, being as large as a pigeon " and of a very anomalous appearance. They are all characterised, how- " ever, by the possession of a remarkably long tongue, ending in a pencil " of stiff bristles, with which the birds extract the honey from the Eucalypts " and other flowering shrubs that grow in such profusion in these regions. " Although essentially honey-eaters, practically all the species are insect- " ivorous as well, catching the insects which are attracted to the flowering " shrubs, and I have frequently seen the common Tasmanian Yellow- " throated Honey-eater *(Ptilotis flavigula)* searching the bark of the " Gum-trees for spiders and beetles, and hawking for flies on the wing " exactly after the manner of a true Flycatcher. The Yellow-throated " Honey-eater of Tasmania is one of the commonest birds in the forests " on Mount Wellington, and its rather mellow little song is not to be " despised in a country where the birds are notoriously unmusical. It is " rather a large bird, about the size of a thrush, but more slender in build " and with a long tail; the colour is olivaceous green, and there is a patch " of saffron under the chin. Two much smaller Honey-eaters with rather " long curved bills, almost as common as the above, are the Black- " headed *(Meliphaga novae-hollandiae)* and the Tasmanian Honey-eater " *(M. australasiana)*, the latter confined to Tasmania, and distinguished " by its black collar. Both have black and white plumage with yellow on " the wings; the Tasmanian Honey-eater is very common quite on the top " of Mount Wellington, and I have often watched them gathering the " honey from the Waratah. Another peculiar Honey-eater, characterised " by its exceedingly long curved bill and its chocolate breast is the Spine " Bill *(Acanthorhynchus)*. This bird occurs on Mount Wellington, but " is much commoner in the open lowland country."

" Next to the Honey-eaters, the true Flycatchers or *Muscicapidae* are " the best represented of the small *Passerines* in Australia and Tasmania, " and some of these are among the most beautiful small birds in the world. " The little Blue Wren of the colonists, *Malurus longicaudalus* (Gould), " has a wonderfully long tail, which is held erect perpendicularly above the " body; the male has the head and shoulders of a vivid electric blue, with " a black collar, while the female is dull brown, with a greyish breast; but " in the autumn the male loses his beautiful colouring and resembles the " the female, reacquiring his blue cape and hood in the spring. It builds " a dome-shaped nest in low shrubs, with the opening at the side, and in " this nest the Bronze Cuckoo frequently lays its eggs. The Wren " haunts clearings in the forest, and is indeed very common everywhere, " especially in gardens. A very closely related species *M. cyaneus*, occurs "in Southern Australia and New South Wales. Another long-tailed "Flycatcher, but of a larger size and dull colouring, is the Fan-tailed "Flycatcher *(Rhipidura albiscapa)*, which has the habit of flirting its tail "and spreading it out like a fan. This is a very common bird and is "widely distributed in the Australian mainland. A very short-tailed "Flycatcher of great beauty is the Flame-breasted Robin *(Petroica* "*phoenicea)*, so called from its vermilion breast, though of course it has "nothing to do with our European Robin. This bird is about the size "of a Bullfinch, the back and wings are black with white markings, and "the whole of the chin, breast and belly is of a brilliant vermilion in the "male sex. The electric blue of the male Wren and the scarlet of the "Robin are among the most vivid colours in nature, and the birds are very "common and by no means shy, seeming indeed rather anxious to show "off their plumage to a stranger."

"Closely related to the F.B. Robin is the Dusky Robin *(P. fusca)*, "a most insignificant brown bird without any gay colouration in either sex. "Seeing these two common species living together under exactly similar "conditions leads one to reflect upon the powerful operation which the "mere caprice and love of beauty has effected in nature, for, look at it "how we may, some dusky forbears of the Scarlet-breasted Robin have "thrown their corner of nature into a convulsion, and made themselves "into a new species, simply for some whim of a red stomacher. And so "far from this giddy ambition leading them to destruction, it is even at "the present time a protection, for the colonists think the bird pretty, and "are reminded by the Robin living in the country which is still referred "to vaguely as home, and so it is believed that if you kill a 'Robin' you "will never have good luck again. In another of the Tasmanian Robins, "known as the Pink-breasted Robin, the male has the breast of a most "beautiful claret colour; this species is much rarer than the foregoing, "and I only saw it on a few occasions, once in a thick part of the gum "forest on Mount Wellington, and once in the myrtle forests on the west "coast."

"One of the few mellow-voiced birds in Tasmania is the Thrush or "Whistling Dick *(Colluricincla silbii)*, a slaty-grey bird about the size of "our Song Thrush; and with a rather similar voice and habit. It is "peculiar to Tasmania, and very common; the bill is long and powerful "and it feeds upon grubs and insects."

"An interesting Ground Thrush *(Oreocincla lunulata)* occurs in the "thickest part of the scrub on Mt. Wellington, and, since it practically "never flies but hops about the dense bushes, it is difficult to get a sight "of one. The note, however, which is a low mournful whistle, is a most "characteristic sound on the mountain, and often one can hear it in the "thick bush a few yards off without ever finding the bird. This peculiar "note, the only sound the bird ever emits, has given rise to the name of "Moper Thrush. Occasionally the bird, when suddenly started, will hop "off the ground on to a fallen log, and it can then be seen to be a very "large brown Thrush, beautifully barred with crescentic black markings."

"Most attractive of all to the stranger are the birds of the Parrot-"tribe; in the forests on Mt. Wellington two kinds are met with, one of "which, the Yellow-bellied Parrakeet *(Platycercus flaviventris)*, a fine "green and yellow bird with blue wings and a very long tail, which feeds "almost entirely on seeds, and when started emits a curious cry, ***Cussek***, "***cussek***, in rapid succession. It builds its nest in the holes of Gum-trees."

"The other much rarer species met with on the mountain is the "Black Cockatoo *(Calyptorhynchus xanthonotus)*, a very large jet-black "bird with saffron-coloured ears, and some brilliant saffron feathers in its "tail. This is one of the handsomest Cockatoos, but is practically never "seen in captivity owing to the extreme difficulty of getting the young "from the nest, and the old birds are far too wild to catch or to tame. "Indeed, until recently a nest had never been found, but in felling a "gigantic gum spar a nest was discovered in a hollow near the top. This "Cockatoo feeds on grubs which it extracts from under the bark of Gum-"trees and from rotten timber; it is a powerful flier and rarely lets one "approach within gunshot . . . . . the only other time I was 'within gunshot range of the bird was when I was driving to Lake St. "Clair; my gun and ammunition were packed at the bottom of the buggy, "when suddenly in a clearing I came upon five beautiful Cockatoos sitting "quite fearlessly on the lower branches of some small Gum-trees and "preening their feathers in the sunlight."

As I have written I have found the various extracts running into such lengthy copy, that I have refrained from interpolating notes of the above birds in aviaries; instead I must refer my readers to back volumes of Bird Notes.

I must state here that the book is divided into four parts or sections, viz: *Hobart and the Midlands; The Lake District; The North and West Coast;* and *Glimpses into the Past.*

The principal bird notes are given in the first part, and are quoted above, but they lose much, owing to space conditions compelling me to leave out most of the vivid descriptions of the forests and the tree and plant life they contained. The book is an intensely interesting one, as the entire fauna of Tasmania is descriptively dealt with, though not in catalogue form, nor yet with any attempt to describe every species. The word pictures and photo-reproductions of tropical vegetation, highlands and lowlands, enable one to envisage the wild creatures and their characteristics very realistically—features not entirely lost within the confines of large aviaries—and then to realise the ease and freedom with which they adapt themselves to captivity or restrained liberty. To some extent their prolificness is lost under the conditions of aviary life, though this is variable, as some pairs are apparently as prolific in the aviary as in the native wilds, others enjoying best conditions seldom make any attempt to reproduce their kind, or do so abortively, or only after a long period in captivity—this is specially true of the Rosella Parrakeet, though many of this species are now successfully bred in aviaries. But I must not allow myself to run on, space forbids; I must complete the bird extracts from the other three sections of the book in another issue.

To be continued.

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The Black-headed Sibia in its Native Woods.

By H. Whistler, F.Z.S.E.

Perhaps our members may be interested in this short note on the Black-headed Sibia *(Lioptila capistrata)* in its native woods, as I gather from Bird Notes that the species has been kept successfully in one or two English aviaries.

At present I am on military duty in the Hill station of Murree in the N.W. Himalayas; Murree itself is a large mountain rising in places to a height of 7,000 feet; to the north of the hill, away from the Bazaar and Cantonment, is a large expanse of jungle filling the hollows and brows of the hill side. This jungle is composed of magnificent silver firs, mixed with evergreen oaks, chestnuts, wild cherries, and other forest trees, many of which have attained a considerable age and size; the undergrowth is somewhat light, composed chiefly of a pungent shrub of whose name I am unaware.

Here for the past month I have been occasionally meeting the Black-headed Sibia, always in pairs, but by no means numerous. They are shy birds, quiet in demeanour, and observed with difficulty as they usually frequent the thicker trees; as they pass with rather laboured flight from one tree to another, or hop rapidly up the branches of some silver fir, they may very easily be mistaken for that much more common bird, the Blue-winged Laughing-Thrush *(Trochalopteron simile)*.

The finding of the nest has been a matter of ambition with me for some time past, but it seemed rather a hopeless matter with a bird so shy which nests up in the big trees of these jungles. Watching is not very feasible unless the whereabouts of the nest is known to a fairly exact degree; on the steep hill-sides the area which one can watch from any given spot is very circumscribed, both from the number of the trees and from the ease with which a bird is lost when it drops and rises on the hill-side, or disappears round a ridge.

However, on the 19th of June, chance threw a clue in my way, as, climbing a hill-side, I saw a pair of Sibias collecting moss off the trunk of a tree, with which they disappeared down the hill-side. It was too late that night to devote any time to them, but I determined that the chance thus afforded would not be given up without a very strong effort to avail myself of it. Accordingly, at the next opportunity I went to the spot and sat and watched in various places for three hours, but without success. Indeed, for a long time I could not see the pair at all, but at last hit upon them, and after a time had great hopes of finding the nest, as one of the birds was carrying material. However, the bird was obviously aware of my presence and too shy to go to the nest ; in fact, after hovering about for a long time it went off up the hill and was seen no more.

On June 22nd further watching again put me in touch with the pair, and after some time I saw one of them hopping about the boughs of a large silver fir with some material in its beak in a very undecided fashion. This material was eventually deposited in one of the boughs, where I could see the small beginning of the nest. The Sibia must be a very lazy and desultory builder, or else a former site was deserted owing to my watching, as the extent to which the nest had progressed seemed no adequate result for the three days at least, for which, to my knowledge, building had been in progress.

After this discovery I was careful not to disturb the pair, but went again to the place to see how matters were progressing on 29th June, when the nest as seen from the ground appeared to be complete.

On the 2nd July I went with a light hill boy and another man to secure the nest; this was no easy job. The nest was situated about 25 feet from the ground near the extremity of one of the side boughs of the silver fir, about 12 feet out from the trunk. The situation was a very difficult one, in that there was no other bough so placed that it would be possible to reach the nest either from above or below, without pulling it over so much as to endanger the contents.

After a great deal of consideration and reconnoitring, the plan adopted was to fasten a rope to the trunk of the tree in such a way that the boy was able to use it to bear the greater part of his weight while he crept out in monkey fashion along the bough on which the nest was actually built. The bough sagged in a very dangerous manner, dangerous both for the boy and the eggs, as he went creeping, but he was just able to secure the nest and the solitary egg which it contained. After the disturbance we had made and the time we had spent over it I did not dare to leave the egg for the clutch to be completed, as the bird would almost certainly have deserted. When we arrived, I think she was sitting on the nest, and once I saw her in a neighbouring tree, but she disappeared and was no more seen.

The nest was a neat and beautifully rounded, though rather loosely built cup, measuring about 105 m.m. across, with an internal diameter of about 65 m.m.; the depth of the cavity was roughly 40 m.m. It was composed of dry grasses, stems of maidenhair ferns, and pine needles, mixed with a little green moss, seed cases of some tree, and similar substances. There was no lining.

The egg measured 25.5 m.m. by 18 m.m.; it was of a very faint greenish blue in ground colour, spotted and speckled sparingly, but mostly towards the broader end, with lilac brown of two tints.

◆

Hybrid Whydahs.

By W. Shore Baily.

In 1915 I sent you, in perfectly good faith, an account of the breeding of the Red-collared Whydah *(Penthetria ardens)*, which you published as being the second successful record of their breeding in this country, the first breeder having been Mrs. Anningson, some years previously.

It has now been proved that my hen was not a Red-collared Whydah. As stated in my article mentioned above, I bought the hen as a female Crimson-crowned Weaver, but I have since had a hen of this species, and there is a marked difference between the two birds. Last season her first young one came into colour, and I thought at first that although it had no red collar, it was still a pure bred *P. ardens*, as I understand that pure black males are occasionally found in the Gambia. However, it developed, later on, a yellow mantle, and when in full colour exactly resembled the plate of the Yellow-backed Whydah *(P. macrura)* in Butler's *Foreign Finches in Captivity*.

This handsome hybrid was unfortunately killed, and I then sent its body to Mr. Chubb at the British Museum, and he gave it as his opinion that it was a hybrid between *P. ardens* and *P. macrura*.

The next season the hen successfully nested again, and I sent you an account, which you published in October, 1916, under the heading of *The Breeding of a hybrid Crimson-crowned Weaver and Red-collared Whydah.*

This record is of course also a wrong one. The father in this case appears to have been the Red-shouldered Whydah, which bird the young one, now that it has come into colour, very closely resembles. Its shoulders are, however, primrose yellow instead of red, and its tail is rather longer. It has no yellow on the back, which one would expect it to have if its mother had been a true Yellow-backed Whydah. The question is, if not a *P. macrura*, what can the hen have been? One also wonders whether the birds bred by Mrs. Anningson were pure bred. Possibly they did not live the two years, and so come into colour.

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The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Continued from page 186.

Long-tailed Grassfinch *(Poephila acuticauda).* This is one of the nicest finches obtainable to adorn an aviary; beatiful without garishness, vivacious and alert without wildness, and, when once acclimatised, hardy and enduring. In all naturally planted garden aviaries a free breeder, usually rearing its young without any addition to the ordinary *menu* of the aviary, that is, obtaining what live-food it requires by foraging within the precincts of its enclosure. To the above attractive qualities must be added the interesting and quaint courting movements, immediately preceding and during the breeding season. The nest is a rather large and untidy sphere with a smallish entrance hole at the front, woven together of any available material in the aviary, but when available grass and hay are chosen, the coarser blades and stems being used externally and the finer for the inside, which is usually completed by the addition of a few feathers and a little plant down. The incubation period is a little variable—clutches have been hatched in as short a period as eleven days (hot, moist season) and have taken as long as fourteen days; the latter period occurred during very hot, dry weather.

It is a native of Australia.

There is another species, Heck's L.-T. Grassfinch *(P. hecki)*, which is similar in every respect except the beak, which is yellow in *acuticauda* and red in *hecki*. Both species are sold by the dealers as L.T. Grassfinches.

Masked Grassfinch *(P. personata).* A stouter built than the preceding species, and not so pleasing in appearance, but, nevertheless, an attractive bird. It is neither so vivacious nor so alert as *acuticauda*, in fact, is somewhat lethargic in demeanour. It has bred in many aviaries, but has not up to the present reared young with me—while not a shy breeder, it has certainly not proved prolific in captivity except in the case of one or two individual pairs. As its domestic economy, etc., is so similar to *acuticauda* I will refrain from further details.

It also, is a native of Australia.

SAFFRON FINCH *(Sycalis flaveola).* A beautiful but pugnacious species which however, I have succeeded in keeping in roomy aviaries without mishap, though it is a confirmed bully, and leading any bird of similar colouration to itself, that is weaker or less courageous, a sad life, if it does not slaughter it. My pairs, except one male, have proved the exception to the rule, and have lived in fairish amity with the other occupants so long as its preserves were not intruded upon. The male referred to above took exception to a cock Green Singingfinch which also is notoriously pugnacious; for two or three years a state of active warfare went on, during which Mr. Saffron got several severe thrashings and looked very sorry for himself for some time afterwards; he, however, was the stronger bird, and eventually I picked up the body of the Green Singingfinch sadly disfigured.

There is no doubt about its beauty, but " handsome is as handsome does," and the Saffron Finch should only be introduced with caution. In some aviaries this species has " gone for " any of the birds not too large for it, whatever their colour, and were simply brutes and murderers.

However, in aviaries where there is plenty of space and cover it may be included, and some pairs at any rate will " live and let live." Of course observation must be kept, and if they begin any attacking had best be removed at once and placed either in the large birds' enclosure or with such birds as Budgerigars. It is a fairly free breeder, but must have abundance of live-food when rearing young.

It is a native of South America.

PELZELN'S SAFFRON FINCH *(S. pelzelni).* This is a smaller species than *flaveola* and not so brightly coloured. It is a free breeder and of an amiable disposition. I need not go into details, as except for the stated qualifications, these are same as apply to *flaveola*; this remark also applies to the following species.

YELLOWISH FINCH *(S. arvensis).* A somewhat sombrely coloured bird of the Linnet type but larger. Though plentiful in its native haunts it has not been a common occupant of English aviaries. I have only possessed one pair, which successfully reared a brood in my Mitcham aviary, and proved perfectly amiable among a mixed series of small and largish hard—and soft-bills.

Spice Finch *(Munia punctulata)*. This bird belongs to the Mannikin group, but is not dull or lethargic in a roomy garden aviary. Though not of bright colouration (mostly nutmeg-brown) it is attractive, its plumage being contrasty and pleasing. In July issue there is a black and white illustration of this species from a drawing by Mrs. A. M. Cook, accompanied by an article from my pen, to which, for further details, I must refer my readers (*vide* page 149 of current vol.)

(To be continued.)

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Bird Life on the Western Front.

By Lt. Gerald E. Rattigan.

I have not much of interest in the avicultural line to report from France. The following, however, is a list of birds noted in the actual front trenches and may prove of interest:

BIRDS ACTUALLY SEEN.

Starlings: I take these first, because they are by far the most noticeable, being numerically far in excess of any other species, in the late autumn and winter at all events.

The flocks increase in extent all through the late summer and autumn, and appear to reach their maximum numbers about the end of October, when huge flocks are constantly to be seen in and around "No Man's Land."

Heavy shell fire drives them away for a time, but the usual morning and evening hymn of hate, which the Bosch used to regularly treat us to, did not appear to worry either them or our other feathered visitors to any extent.

Swallows & Martins: Three or four of each species, two pairs of each I think, to be accurate, used to frequent a certain part of the trenches near Arras daily, and were not apparently disturbed by either pretty heavy shell or machine-gun fire.

Larks: Larks are quite numerous in and around "No Man's Land," and it is one of the few real joys of the trenches to hear them carolling away in the early mornings and evenings whenever there is a lull in the storm of strife.

Rooks & Jackdaws: These are continually to be observed flying over, backwards and forwards across "No Man's Land," especially as winter advances. I frequently saw them as if about to alight, but they were at once scared away by the rattle of machine-guns or a stray shell, and I never saw them actually do so.

Magpies: I only saw one actually in the line, though they are common enough just behind, even in the shell area, i.e two or three miles behind the lines. This bird seemed very unhappy judging by its flurried actions, and no doubt was astray and thankful enough to get back to its usual and more secure haunts.

Robin: I only saw one myself, but believe they are not uncommon during the winter in certain sections of the trenches.

Sparrow-Hawk: Again only one, and this one soon left on hearing a few shots.

Duck: Two flew over, but not too high for me to identify the species, probably Mallard.

HEARD BUT NOT SEEN.

The following birds, though not actually seen, were frequently heard calling from "No Man's Land."

Partridges & Quail: Judging from the number of the former calling every evening all over "No Man's Land," these must have been very numerous, and two or three were actually shot by men in the trenches, though speaking for myself I cannot claim to have actually seen any. The same remark applies to quail, which I frequently heard calling on fine mornings and evenings, during July especially, and August. It is curious that a migratory species like this should pitch upon such, one would imagine, uncongenial quarters for its summer home! Especially as in this case fighting, and very severe fighting too, must have been taking place in this very locality, at the very time of their arrival on migration.

I think this about ends the list of birds observed by me in the actual firing line ,though the list would be enormously increased were I to include the locality just behind the lines, yet well within shell fire radius.

The strip of ground between the opposing trenches was constantly drenched with poison gas of all descriptions, yet partridges and quail were often to be heard calling shortly after a gas attack (lacrimatory gas on this occasion) and seemingly escaped from the effects of the poisonous fumes, which contaminate not only the ground but all the water supply in the neighbourhood for a very considerable time afterwards.

On one occasion I noted a martin flying about over the stretch of trenches in which I was, for quite ten minutes, during a gas attack (lacrimatory gas on this occasion) and seemingly none the worse for its experiences. This attack took place just as it was becoming dusk, and the bird only disappeared with the growing darkness.

Small mammals such as rats, polecats, and weasels similarly do not appear to be subject to the baleful effects of gas to any large degree, judging from the numbers of these creatures which always infest the trenches.

[It would be of interest if Mr. Rattigan would extend these notes to include the species of birds noted in the shell zone just behind the lines.—Ed.]

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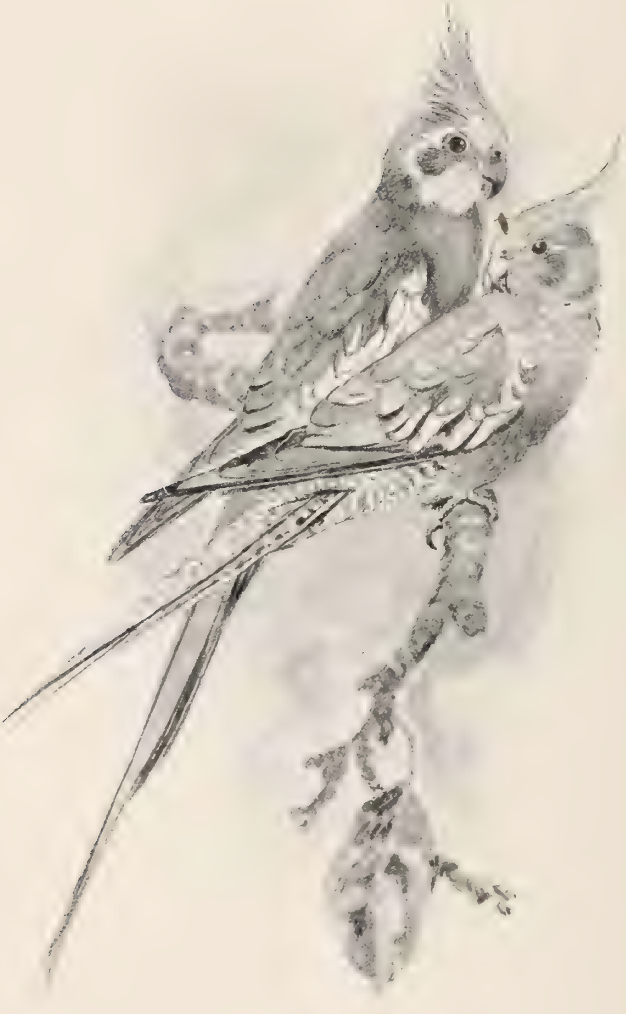
Zebra Finches Bred in a Cage.

By Dorothy M. Pethie.

The Editor has asked me to write of my success with the common but pretty and entertaining Zebra Finch.

This happy event occurred some years ago, but I remember fairly well all the details concerning this, to me, interesting episode. I had a flight cage, 30 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 18 inches deep, with a dome to it. There were 1 pair each Zebra Finches, Silverbills, and Common Waxbills in it, and I always kept coco-nut shells hung in the four corners for them to sleep in; these they freely used. They had plenty of hay to play with and greenfood. The Zebra Finches had often raised my hopes by laying eggs, sitting for a day or two, and then throwing them out, or moving into an untenanted shell One day, there was a fearful scrap in the early hours, which woke me up, as they were kept in my room; of course the Zebras won, they evicted the Silverbill from their coco-nut shell domicile and dared them to return, while one fetched hay from the other shells. Then the hen began to lay, and when there were six eggs she sat steadily, and was not a bit disturbed at being cleaned and fed, though I used to bang the cage on the floor to get the stray seeds out, she only looked up with her little beady eyes. One day, about fourteen days after incubation commenced, a little girl was cleaning them out, and she called to me and told me there were some young ones!! Mamma Zebra Finch, however, resented our curiosity and spread herself out over them. There were six of them at first, but a little later two more hatched out, and eight was rather a tight fit for their coconut shell, so the three top ones were moved to a shell in the dome, when I can't think, as they were there quite early one morning; about three days after the other three were moved I put a clean shell in. Six were fully reared, and grew to be fine healthy birds, five ♂ and one ♀. They were reared on seed, though the parents had access to soft food and plenty of greenstuff. As soon as they could fend for themselves I transferred them to another cage, and a terribly quarrelsome company they were. I sold them after a time, and the parents too; now I regret having sold the latter acutely, but it's "too late."



From life by Mrs. A. M. Cook.

Cockateels ♂ *(top fig.)* & ♀

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Cockateel.

(Calopsittacus Novae-Hollandiae)

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

Our member, Mrs. A. M. Cook, having kindly sent me a drawing of a pair of this well known species, for use in the Club Journal, the following notes are written to accompany same.

The Cockateel, the Budgerigar and the Zebra Finch are perhaps the most commonly kept species of foreign birds in this country, and of the trio the cockateel is a good second. All are prolific breeders, and of all alike it must be said that there are individual pairs which, if not barren, are either bad parents or only play at housekeeping, and do not go beyond the laying of eggs. Such cases occur with the " old hand " as well as with the tyro in aviculture—there is no remedy save to part with such unnatural pairs and procure others, hoping that the " chance of luck " may bring along a " breeding pair."

The Cockateel is almost too well known to need a description of its plumage, but the new member is ever with us, and this had better be just indicated. The two main colours in both sexes are grey and white, the grey deepening to blackish in parts. In the male the sides of the face, forehead and forecrown are primrose-yellow, with a brick-red patch just below the eye. The female's face is only tinged with yellow, but she has a greyish-red patch below the eye; her tail too differs from the male, being barred black, white and pale yellowish. These features are well shown in the plate.

Though only a *common* bird the Cockateel is a handsome fellow, and if a good part of his garment is composed of sober grey, the whole colour plan of his plumage is so contrasty as to be both striking and pleasing, and his most pronounced detractor could never dub him a sombre hued bird. The female is no less pleasing though not so brilliant a bird as her mate. Usually they live together on very affectionate terms with each other, are active and alert, and their general demeanour in the aviary is interesting and pleasing.

Canary and white millet seeds with a few oats, and greenfood meet its simple needs; when they are feeding young I always keep a saucer of broken biscuits in the aviary, but these are not usually largely partaken, still, if there's a large family, it makes the parents' task of rearing them a little less arduous.

I have had a good few pairs of this species in the course of my avicultural experience, and have reared a good few young ones, for I rather like them, and if cleared out to make room for rarer species, their absence is usually only a temporary one.

Possibly some cause for the failure to breed successfully is their disatisfaction with the nest provided. The Parrot tribe like plenty of room in their nest and the nest should be of good size ,especially in depth, that is length from front to back. It is a good plan to take out the front of any small barrel you intend using and add a sort of entrance passage, thus making it of double depth. A box would do, but towards the back the bottom of same must be concave.

The Cockateel is a native of Australia, where it nests in holes in the branches of trees, usually having two broods a year, but in the aviary its fecundity is much greater. A very handsome log-nest can be made by getting a piece of a tree trunk about 15 inches in diameter and 2 feet long; bore a 12 inch hole right through it, block up the two ends, boring a 2 inch hole in one of them near the top, and hang it up, leaving the birds to do the rest. The bark should be left on the piece of trunk and wood with bark on should be used for stopping up the ends.

I have found the Cockateel quite amiable and this without exception, though I have possessed many since I first started keeping foreign birds. But I must add that others have not been so fortunate and I have heard of many who gave trouble to their owners.

They are mischievous and curious, and are apt to annoy and disturb other birds, especially passerines if they are kept with them; not by attacking the birds, but by nibbling at their nests, often continuing this annoyance (pleasantry perhaps from their standpoint) till the structure drops a shapeless wreck to the ground. However, nothing is perfect, virtue and vice (failings at any rate) abound in every form of creature life, and the Cockateel is not perfect, but an all round good fellow nevertheless.

But I must not yarn on, as this species has been much written about, and if any reader wants more details I must refer them to back volumes.

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"Joseph."

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

The autumn of 1914, of evil memory, placed me, and no doubt many other members also, in a position where aviculture was altogether out of the question; but finding myself, some months later, in London in more commodious quarters than a bell-tent, I was tempted to keep at least one bird to remind me of my favourites, the beautiful Broad-tailed Parrakeets of Australia. An offer of a cock Yellow-mantled Parrakeet *(Platycercus splendidus)* was accepted, and in due course Joseph arrived; he was in very good plumage for a newly-imported bird, partly, no doubt, owing to the fact that he had been on the show-bench in his native land and was quite steady in a cage, though not finger-tame. (The term " finger-tame " as applied to a cock Broadtail, means " ready to come up and bite your finger severely;" when tame they are seldom, or never, affectionate towards human beings!) Joseph soon made himself fairly at home in a wire netting cage, about 3 feet 6 inches x 2 feet 6 inches x 3 feet, which gave him more room than an ordinary parrot cage; but it was some time before he would venture right into his bath, and he spent a lot of time trying to splash himself from outside. The greenfood I stuck in a vase about the same height as the perch; in this way it kept fresh a long time and he hardly ever pulled it all out or upset the water, contenting himself with nibbling off just what he required at the time.

He had several whistling calls, some very musical and none really unpleasant, so that he was quite an unobjectionable inmate of the drawing room; only on one occasion he rather seriously undermined the gravity of a Y.W.C.A. prayer meeting my wife was holding, by the emphatic way he interjected musical comments at all the most inappropriate and solemn moments. I have noticed that, whereas there are a few calls uttered by all the members of a particular species of *Platycercus*, each individual seems to have a few extra ones, wholly, or almost, peculiar to himself.

Thinking that he would like a mate, I obtained Joseph a hen Mealy Rosella as a companion, putting her in a cage close to him until they had had time to get used to one another. He seemed pleased to see her, at which I was not surprised, as for some time past he had shown signs of being in breeding condition; she seemed equally pleased to see him, and both got half frantic if they were placed out of sight of one another.

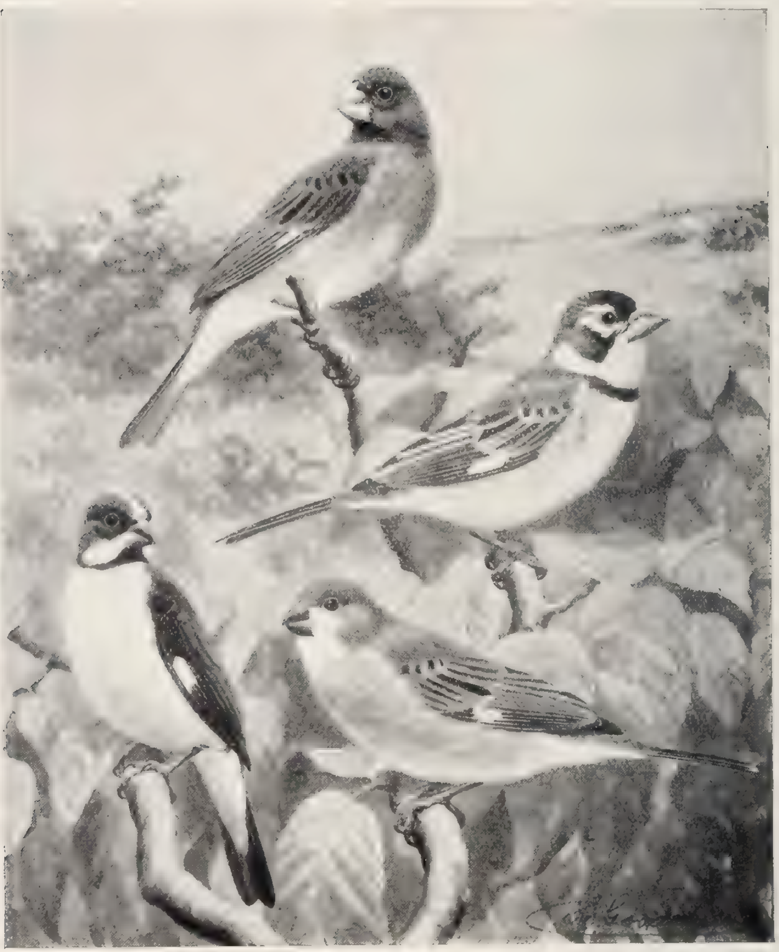
But there was a surprise in store; when I let the Mealy walk into Joseph's cage, he dashed away from her, and appeared terrified, although she made no attempt to molest him, and, in fact, was more than ready to make advances herself. Day after day I tried the same experiment with the same result; if the Mealy was taken out of the room, Joseph fluttered against the wire and called distractedly, but once she entered his cage he seemed just as anxious to escape from her society as he had formerly been to rejoin her. Finally I gave it up as a bad job and sent the Mealy Rosella away, replacing her by a hen Stanley, who, from close confinement and lack of green food, had developed into a feather-plucker, and was the most wretched object imaginable. Joseph, however, seemed more attracted by her than he had been by the Mealy, and when she was introduced to him later he made himself very agreeable, and started to feed her. Strange to say, however, when she began to fly about the cage, his old nervousness returned, and it was some days before he was entirely at his ease. I can only account for his curious behaviour by the suggestion that he must, some time, have been caged with a very spiteful bird, and that the bullying he received left such an impression on him that the attractions of female society could hardly overcome his inherent dread of another occupant of the same cage. People are often abominably careless about keeping quarrelling birds together, and the cruelty thus inflicted is very great. Before I had had her many weeks the Stanley surprised me by showing signs of a desire to nest, scratching energetically on the floor of the cage. Accordingly I fixed a nest-box on the outside, making a hole in the wire for the birds to enter; they took to the box at once, Joseph spending a lot of time sitting at the entrance whistling and waggling his tail, while the Stanley rummaged and scratched inside. About this time Joseph began to resent what he suspected to be interference with his family affairs. If a hand was placed near his cage he would sidle up and attempt to inflict a bite, especially if he thought the owner was just turning away. At such times he would often utter a querulous whining noise, which clearly meant "For goodness' sake clear off and leave us in peace!" There was absolutely no aggressiveness about his attack—in fact, at the actual moment he lunged forward to bite, a slight squawk of fear would sometimes escape him; his whole manner reminded one of a person with difficulty screwing up his courage to perform a dangerous and unpleasant duty, and was as different as possible from the truculent and cheerful fury he displayed when a strange Parrakeet was shown to him; at such times his rage was so great that he would even attack his wife if she got in his way.

The Stanley spent more and more time in the nest until she began to sleep there also, and a day or two later the first egg appeared. The following morning, however, the hen did not look well, and it was evident that egg-binding was imminent. Next day she appeared very weak and ill and I was obliged to take her away to another room and put her in a cage in front of the fire. She never passed the egg, but grew slowly better after a few days, and was quite herself again at the end of a month. In June I moved to the country where Joseph and his mate were accommodated in a nice large aviary, much to their satisfaction—in fact Joseph, who was beginning to moult, stopped casting his feathers for a bit and actually came back into breeding condition. In September I took the Stanley away and gave Joseph a hen Rosella in her place. He took to her quite readily, having previously spent some days in solitude. This Rosella, though tame, was rather a poor specimen, and became seedy during a spell of severe weather that winter. I therefore took her in and gave Joseph a fine Tasmanian hen in her place – the largest and brightest female Rosella I have ever seen, though easily distinguishable from a male to a practised eye. (The presence of tiny greenish feathers at the back of the eye is a useful indication of sex in adults. Cocks never have them; hens always, or almost always, have).

In the spring I released the tame Rosella in the garden with a new cock; Joseph was not at all pleased to see his former wife again, and, warned by the maledictions he hurled at her, she gave the aviary a wide berth; the cock, however, used to fight Joseph through the wire, no damage, however, resulting to either. In early June the Tasmanian hen began to spend a good deal of time in the nest box, but no eggs were laid till the following season, when she produced three, one being very small. She sat very steadily, but to my disappointment the eggs were all clear. This year four eggs were laid, and in due course a squeaking inside the box disclosed the presence of a youngster. He tumbled out while still unable to fly, but did not seem any the worse. A week or two later he left the nest for good, but presented a very odd appearance as his mother had nibbled all the feathers off his head, neck and back. Whether Joseph was annoyed at the disfigurement of his offspring, I do not know, but for several weeks he was extremely snappy with his wife, though he cared for the young bird most devotedly. One morning, however, I noticed that the latter was not looking quite up to the mark, though he did not seem seriously ill; so I watched him. He climbed on to a ledge near the wire and when I put my hand up to him he took no notice. Then suddenly he gave a slight cry and fell backwards, clung for a moment to the netting and dropped to the ground, and after one or two convulsive flaps, was dead! His parents dashed up excitedly as soon as the spasm seized him and followed him to the ground. Once Joseph touched his beak and whistled softly to try and rouse him, but there was no response, and realising that all was over he flew up to the perch again. The post mortem report was pleurisy and pericarditis; I had expected apoplexy from the symptoms.

A few weeks later I decided, after a good deal of consideration, to give Joseph and his wife their liberty. Joseph was getting on in years, and it did not seem probable that he would be of much more use for breeding in confinement. Moreover, I had the offer of other Yellow-mantles, which I hope to secure before long. One evening, therefore, I had the wire netting removed from part of the flight. For some time the inmates did not realize that their captivity was over, but finally the Rosella flew into some bushes close by and began to climb about and nibble the leaves. Joseph called to her, but did not follow, and fearing that he might decide to spend the night in his old quarters, which were now open to invasion by cats, I drove him gently out. He only went a few yards, and at first seemed scared by his unaccustomed surroundings, but later in the evening he had gained confidence and was whistling in his usual way before going to sleep. I put food on the top of the aviary, expecting that the birds would come down to feed as soon as it was light. When I went out next morning, however, the food was untouched, and later I discovered the pair in a different part of the garden. All their domesticity had slipped away from them and they were flying restlessly from tree-top to tree-top in a way I did not altogether like. When evening came there was no sign of Joseph, and I began to bitterly regret that I had not adopted the usual precaution of letting one bird get accustomed to its freedom before its mate was allowed to join it. Joseph seemed such a staid old fellow that I never imagined he would leave the home where he had spent three years, in the independnt fashion of a newcomer from the Australian bush. Next morning, however, the first sound that greeted my ears, on waking, was Joseph's well-known whistle and his mate's reply. On going out later there was no sign of either, and I consoled myself by thinking that they would again come back to roost. But next day I neither saw nor heard them, and the two following days gave us no clue to Joseph's whereabouts. My fears revived; I had many rarer and more valuable birds in my collection, but I had grown fond of Joseph for association's sake, and his loss annoyed me extremely, especially as I felt that with better management he might not have strayed. On the fifth morning, however, the gardener brought me the good news that Joseph and his wife had been spending most of the previous day in the orchard, and almost at the same moment a Pennant in an aviary near by flung himself against the wire, calling in wild excitement as the two Rosellas swept gracefully over the house and settled in a tree above our heads. A few minutes later they were down on the feeding tray, and I knew that all was well.

Subsequently we learned that Joseph had spent the first days of his liberty feasting on the apples in a neighbour's garden. Fortunately the neighbour was hospitable and knew Joseph, and the amount of fruit consumed was not great. For some time we saw little of the pair, and it seemed difficult to realize that the bird of which we caught occasional glimpses as he darted across the sky and vanished behind the tree-tops was the same truculent Joseph of the aviary on the north lawn. But gradually his old character began to reassert itself, and he also spent more time at home. Liberty and unlimited wild food had again brought him back into breeding condition, and although both were moulting, I saw him feeding the Rosella. He soon began to explore the chimney-stacks for a nesting site, and fearing that he might come to an untimely end by descending a chimney, I fixed up his old nest-box under the roof, which he often visits, though naturally, considering the time of year,



From life by H. Goodchild.

Group of *Spermophilae.*

Plumbeous Finch (*Top Fig.*)
Lined Finch (*Left Fig.*)
White-throated Finch (*Upper Right Fig.*)
Bluish Finch (*Bottom Fig. on Right.*)

his wife takes but a perfunctory interest in his proceedings. Some days ago I let out the cock Pennant already referred to, whose mate was also free. The following morning Joseph had the gratification of indulging in a form of entertainment, beloved of his sex and race, to which he had been long an unwilling stranger, viz: a good set-to with another cock Broadtail. The first battle left the Pennant with the honours of war, but subsequent engagements appear to have gone in Joseph's favour, for his rival now makes way for him when they meet. I fear, however, he will have to take second place if a pair of Blue-bonnets I am releasing should stay, for few Parrakeets are a match for the vicious little monkey in brown and blue, whom even an owl will not tackle.

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The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 233).

Black-headed Lined Finch *(Spermophila ocellata).* All the species of this genus I have kept (some 20) are great favourites with me. They are wee grosbeaks of dainty form and of pleasing if not gorgeous plumage. They are good songsters and make charming cage pets and most desirable aviary birds. *Ocellata* is glistening greenish-black above and white beneath; with a black gorget and half collar, two white patches on the lower face and a white wing speculum. The female differs entirely from the male, being dull olive above and buffish-white beneath. Total length 4½ in., tail 1¾ in.

So far as I remember this species has not been bred in captivity.

Bluish Finch *(S. caerulescens).* Somewhat similar to the White-throated Finch but is a little smaller and has a black chin-patch. It has not bred in captivity in this country.

Fire-red Finch *(S. minuta).* This dainty finch is one of the gems of the genus; trim and tightly feathered, and almost always uttering his sweet little song. A grand aviary bird, full of vivacity and altogether charming as he disports himself amid the foliage of a garden aviary.

The male has head, nape, back of neck, upper half of back, wings and tail a soft brown, the remainder of its plumage being deep rufous-chestnut. Total length 4 in., tail 1½ in.

The female is dusky olive-brown above and buffish-white beneath, washed in parts with buffish-ochre.

LAVENDER-BACKED FINCH *(S. castaneiventris).* A most interesting and charming species. The solitary male I have possessed was a treat to watch in my garden aviary, where it lived happily all the year round for four years, but during the last winter, a very wet one, it died suddenly. Its body was plump and the plumage tight and silky.

The male is lavender-grey, with the throat, breast, and centre of abdomen, and under tail-coverts ruddy-chestnut. Total length 3½ in., tail 1⅜ in.

The female is principally brown above and buffish-ochre beneath.

It has not been bred in captivity in this country.

It makes a fascinating cage-pet. Mrs. K. Leslie Miller had one which lived 10-12 years in a cage and was always in exhibition form up to within a year of its death.

LINED FINCH *(S. lineola).* This is very similar to *ocellata*, but has a broadish white band running from the base of the upper mandible across the centre of the crown of the head. Equally pleasing as the foregoing, and its contrasty and glistening plumage makes it a very pleasing and noticeable bird in the aviary.

I am not aware of its having been bred in Great Britain.

Total length 4⅜ in., tail 1⅞ in.

REDDISH FINCH *(S. nigroaurantia).* A very pleasing finch with a sweet but not very sustained song.

The male is sandy cinnamon, variagated with blackish above, and white patches on the wings. Total length 3⅞ in., tail 1½ in.

The female is olive-brown above, much paler below, with centre of abdomen yellowish-white.

I have successfully wintered all the foregoing species out of doors, but consider this risky during wet seasons, and on wet retentive soils. They can be wintered indoors in a roomy flight-cage in an unheated room without difficulty.

With few exceptions the *Spermophila* have not been largely kept; in fact, have not been much asked for, their attractive qualities and characteristics not being surface ones.

DIUCA FINCH *(Diuca diuca).* This is a very nice species indeed, and a very handsome bird in its well-contrasted plumage of grey and white. In appearance and form it is very similar to the Grey Cardinal, but has a grey instead of a red crest.

It has never been a common species in aviaries, only appearing on the market at intervals, but it has bred in English aviaries on one or two occasions.

It can be wintered out of doors. It should be treated similarly to the cardinals and must have a liberal supply of live-food when it is feeding young.

PAINTED FINCH *(Emblema picta).* A beautiful Australian species, which has never been common, though at one period quite a few pairs were imported by Messrs. Payne and Wallace, and distributed among English aviculturists. Their cost was £5 per pair.

I obtained one of these pairs, but owing to their cost and rarity I did not risk them out of doors, but kept them in a roomy cage in the birdroom, against my own judgment, and paid the price of my folly by losing the hen from liver trouble. She laid one clutch of eggs before her decease.

Our member, Mr. H. Willford, successfully bred the species in his Isle of Wight aviaries, and others all but succeeded. I do not think a single living specimen of this superb species now exists in this country.

It should be wintered indoors, but heat is not required. A coloured plate and descriptive article has appeared in this Journal (*vide* Vol. vii., first series, page 241).

(To be continued).

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(Continued from page 214).

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59.

138.—AFRICAN SILVERBILL. *A. cantans.* **W.T.P.**
By Farrar. 1896. See A.M. ii. and A.G.B. i. 174.
Abroad. 1st Bolle †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.
Hybrids.

AFRICAN SILVERBILL × OLIVE FINCH. *(Euethia olivacea: Fringillidæ).*
1st Easton Scott. See B.N. 1910. 230.

AFRICAN SILVERBILL × INDIAN SILVERBILL.
W.T.P.
Abroad †Russ. ?which way (A.G.B.).

AFRICAN SILVERBILL × SHARP-TAILED FINCH.
W.T.P. By Dell †Butler. A.M. 1. c.

AFRICAN SILVERBILL × JAVA SPARROW.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. and †Butler. 1.c.
.. .. × ZEBRA FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. and †Butler 1.c.
" " × BRONZE MANNIKIN.
Boyd, 1914. See B.N., 1915. Jan. inset.
.. .. × MAJA FINCH.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. and †Butler, A.M., 1.c.
.. .. × NUTMEG FINCH.
W.T.P. and see Butler 1.c.
.. .. × STRIATED FINCH. W.T.P.
.. .. × BENGALI.
W.T.P. Butler 1.c.
Abroad. In Italy, 1907. See B.N. 1907, 161.
.. .. × SYDNEY WAXBILL. W.T.P. C.
.. .. × ST. HELENA WAXBILL. See Butler 1.c
" .. × GREY WAXBILL. W.T.P. C.

× African Silverbill (Two-coloured Mannikin).
× African Silverbill (Zebra Finch).
× African Silverbill (Java Sparrow).
× African Silverbill (Nutmeg Finch).
× African Silverbill (Sharp-tailed Finch).
× African Silverbill (Striated Finch).
× African Silverbill (St. Helena Waxbill)

139.—SYDNEY WAXBILL. *Aegintha temporalis.* **W.T.P.**
1st Phillipps, 1903. A.S. Medal. See A.M., viii. 389.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
Hybrids.
× Sydney Waxbill (African Silverbill).
× Sydney Waxbill (St. Helena Waxbill).

◆

140.—RUFOUS-TAILED GRASSFINCH. *Bathilda ruficauda.* **W.T.P.**
1st Nicholson, A.S. Medal, 1901. See A.M. vii. 219.
Hybrids.
× Rufous-tailed Grassfinch (Parson—Long-tailed Grassfinch Hybrid).
× Rufous-tailed Grassfinch (Crimson Finch).

◆

141.—LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCH. *Poephila acuticauda.* **W.T.P.**
Todd, 1897, A.S. Medal. A.M. iii. 210. Zoo, 1909.
Hybrids.
LONG-TAILED × MASKED GRASSFINCH.
W.T.P. Lovell Keays, 1914. B.N. 1915, 142.
× Long-tailed Grassfinch (Zebra Finch).
× Long-tailed Grassfinch (Parson Finch).
× Long-tailed Grassfinch (Crimson Finch).

◆

142.—PARSON FINCH. *P. cincta.* **W.T.P.**
Frequently.
Abroad. 1st Schoney †Russ.
Hybrids.
PARSON FINCH × LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCH.
W.T.P. De Quincey. See B.N. 1916, 264. Previously bred by Phillipps, †Butler A.M., n s. iv. 350.
PARSON FINCH × PARSON-LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCH Hybrid.
De Quincey, 1916. See B.N. 1916, 264.
PARSON FINCH × BENGALI.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. In Konigsberg †A.G.B. i. 167.
PARSON FINCH × MAJA FINCH.
Abroad W.T.P. and see Butler, A.M. 1.c.
× Parson Finch (Maja Finch).
× Parson Finch (Striated Finch).

◆

143.—MASKED GRASSFINCH. *P. personata.* **W.T.P.**
1st Hawkins, 1900, A.S. Medal. See A.M. vii. 32.
Hybrids.
× Masked Grassfinch (Cherry Finch).
× Masked Grassfinch (Long-tailed Grassfinch).

144.—GOULDIAN FINCH- *P. gouldiae*, the Black-headed. *P. mirabilis*, the Red-headed. **W.T.P.**

Phillipps the first to breed the RED-HEADED in Great Britain. †Fillmer. See also A.M. vol. i., the Minutes of the C.B. Club, August 19th, 1893, and for a note on prolificness, A.M., 1916, 69.

The two forms interbreed.

Abroad. ? the 1st breeder †Russ.

145.—PIN-TAILED NONPAREIL. *Erythrura prasina.*

Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Berghaan †Russ.

By Lieut. Hauth in 1886. †A.G.B. i. 164.

146.—PARROT FINCH- *E. psittacea.* **W.T.P.**

By Wiener, Phillipps and others †A.G.B.

Abroad. 1st Wiener †Russ. " easily bred " †Russ.

HYBRIDS.

PARROT FINCH × PEALE'S PARROT FINCH. W.T.P.

" " × TRICOLOURED PARROT FINCH. W.T.P.

" Exhibited at the C.P., as recorded by Mr. Hawkins. I believe that the hybrid has also been produced in Germany." †Butler, A.M., n.s. iv. 350.

147.—PEALE'S PARROT FINCH. *E. pealei.* **W.T.P.**

× Peale's Parrot Finch (Parrot Finch).

148.—TRICOLOURED PARROT FINCH *E. trichroa.* **W.T.P.**

Abroad. 1st Hauth †Russ. " Easily bred " /Russ. Also bred in France, see A.M. iii.

HYBRIDS.

× Tricoloured Parrot Finch (Parrot Finch).

149.—CRIMSON FINCH- *Neochmia phaeton.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1912, the first time in the Gardens.

Abroad. 1st Schmidt †Russ.

HYBRIDS.

CRIMSON FINCH × LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCH. Abroad. W.T.P. C.
,, ,, × RUFOUS-TAILED GRASSFINCH. Abroad. W.T.P. C.

◇

150.—ST- HELENA WAXBILL. *Estrilda astrilda.* **W.T.P.**
See A.M. ii. 30. (Rothera).
Hybrids.

ST. HELENA × GREY WAXBILL.
W.T.P. Farrar writes (A.M. ii. 139), " nest full of young ones." (? if they reached maturity; nothing further about them later on. EH).
In Greene's *Notes on Cage Birds*, 2nd series, 1896. " S " writes (p. 105) that he (or she) had bred 4 of these hybrids in an aviary, which were getting quite strong on the wing at the time of writing.

ST. HELENA × ZEBRA FINCH.
By Hodgson †Butler, A.M. n.s. iv. 350.
,, × SILVERBILL.
Abroad. W.T.P. C.
,, × SYNDNEY WAXBILL.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. Butler 1.c.
× St. Helena Waxbill (Zebra Finch).
× St. Helena Waxbill (African Silverbill).
× St. Helena Waxbill (Orange-cheeked Waxbill).
× St. Helena Waxbill (Grey Waxbill).
× St. Helena Waxbill (Cordon Bleu).

◇

151.—GREY WAXBILL. *E. cincrea.* **W.T.P.**
? by Gedney †Fillmer. p. 29.
An account (Bainbridge), see B.N. 1913. 283. See also a note. B.N. 1913. 360 ,of its having been bred in 1903.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
Hybrids.

GREY WAXBILL × ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILL. Abroad W.T.P. C
,, ,, × CRIMSON-RUMPED WAXBILL.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. By Baldelli in Italy, 1903. †A.G.B. i. 157.

GREY WAXBILL × ST. HELENA WAXBILL.
W.T.P. and see Butler, A.M. 1.c.
× Grey Waxbill (Firefinch).
× Grey Waxbill (Zebra Waxbill).
× Grey Waxbill (Orange-cheeked W.)
× Grey Waxbill (St. Helena W.)
× Grey Waxbill (African Silverbill).

152.—CRIMSON-RUMPED WAXBILL. *E. rhodopyga.*
Hybrids.
× Crimson-rumped Waxbill (Grey Waxbill).

◆

153.—LAVENDER FINCH. *E. caerulescens.* **W.T.P.**
1st Alderson, 1900. A.S. Medal. See A.M. vii. 45.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.
Hybrids.

LAVENDER FINCH × FIREFINCH. Abroad. W.T.P. C., or ? Firefinch.
× Lavender Finch. "uncertain which way" Butler. A.M. 1.c.

◆

154.—CORDON BLEU. *Uraeginthus phoenicotis.* **W.T.P.**
1st Farrar †A.G.B. i. 159. Another record of success in Greene's *Notes on Cage Birds*, secodn series., 1896. p. 111.
Abroad. 1st Leuckfeld †Russ.
Hybrids.

CORDON BLEU × ST .HELENA WAXBILL.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. Butler 1.c.
× Cordon Bleu (Blue-breasted Waxbill).

◆

155.—BLUE-BREASTED WAXBILL. *U. angolensis.* **W.T.P.**
A record of success. (? the first), B.N. 1916, 257.
Hybrids.

BLUE-BREASTED WAXBILL × CORDON BLEU .
Amsler, 1913. See B.N. 1913. 250.

◆

The VIOLET-EARED WAXBILL *(Granatina granatina)* has laid eggs in Portugal (Mrs. Vivien, 1904): not known if they hatched. †A.G.B. i. 160. And Scott Freeland got as far as young ten days old, teste Lovell Keays. (E.H.)

◆

156.—SCALY-FRONTED WEAVER. *Sporopipes squamifrons.* **W.T.P.**
Abroad. 1st Harris †Russ.

157.—BUFFALO WEAVER. *Textor niger*, (or more probably the West African species, *T. senegalensis*. E.H.)
Abroad. At the Berlin Aquarium, †Russ.

158.—CHESTNUT-BACKED WEAVER. *Melanopteryx castaneifusca.*
Abroad. 1st Schneider †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.

159.—RUFOUS-NECKED WEAVER. *Hyphantornis cucullatus.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1905 and 1913.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

RUFOUS-NECKED × SPOTTED-BACKED WEAVER.
W.T.P. 1st Holden, 1915 See A.M. 1916. 28.

160.—"Great Nigerian Yellow Weaver."
HYBRIDS.
"Great Nigerian Yellow Weaver," "Transvaal Weaver."
Shore Baily, 1913. See B.N. 1913, 214.
? species; the hen is probably one of the CAPE GOLDEN Weavers, the cock ?. (E.H.). In the B.N. account it is stated that the cock came from Nigeria and was "about the size of an English Thrush. The general body colour is deep yellow; the back and wings greenish yellow, barred with a slightly deeper colour; front of face dusky; iris . . . . white . . . . The hen came from the Transvaal and is the size of a Saffron Finch, and very much resembles the cock Saffron Finch in colour. Neither bird has had any seasonal change of colour since I have had them."

161.—SPOTTED-BACKED WEAVER. *H. spilonotus.*
HYBRIDS.
× Spotted-backed Weaver (Rufous-necked Weaver).

162.—BLACK-HEADED WEAVER. *Sitagra melanocephala.* **W.T.P.**
1st Poltimore, F.B.C. Medal, 1912. See B.N. 1912, 338.
Abroad. W.T.P. C.

163.—CABANIS' WEAVER. *S. cabanisi.*
Abroad. 1st Schrodter †Russ.

164.—LITTLE MASKED WEAVER. *S. luteola.*
1st Shore Baily, 1914. See B.N. 1915. Jan. inset.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ. " easily bred " †Russ.

165.—BLACK-FRONTED WEAVER. *S. velata.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1892..

166.—HALF-MASKED WEAVER. *S. vitellina.*
Shore Baily, 1915. B.N. 1916, 25.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Russ †Russ. " easily bred " †Russ.

167.—CAPE GOLDEN WEAVER. *S. capensis or olivacea.*
? " Transvall Weaver," see o. 160.
Abroad. 1st Wiener †Russ.

168.—MADAGASCAR WEAVER. *Foudia madagascariensis.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Russ †Russ. " easily bred " †Russ.

169.—BAYA WEAVER. *Ploceus baya.*
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ.

170.—BENGAL BAYA. *P. bengalensis.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Russ †Russ.

171.—MANYAR WEAVER. *P. manyar.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Russ †Russ.

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH NAMES.

90.—**RED-COLLARED WHYDAH**. Red-throated Whydah, Crimson-collared Whydah.

93.—**COMBASOU**. Ultramarine Finch, Shining Weaver Bird, Atlas Finch, occasional dealers' and book names.

94.—**CRIMSON-CROWNED BISHOP**. Crimson crowned Weaver. (and "Weaver" also commonly used instead of "Bishop" for all this genus). "Firefinch," "Soldier Bird," W. Afr. pop. names.

96.—**GRENADIER BISHOP**. Oryx Weaver, Oryx Bishop, Red Bishop, Cape Red Bishop, "Red Kaffir Fink," in S.A.

98.—**KAFFIR FINCH**. "Kaffir Fink," "Yellow Kaffir Fink," in S.A., Cape Black and Yellow Bishop.

101.—**POKERHEAD WEAVER**. Red-headed Weaver.

102.—**RED-BILLED WEAVER**. Waxbill Weaver, Red-beaked Weaver, Common Weaver, Black-faced Weaver.

103.—**TWO-COLOURED MANNIKIN**. Cape Palmas Finch.

105.—**BIB FINCH**. Dwarf Finch; African Parson Finch, Amadine Finch, the two last occ. dealers' names.

106.—**BRONZE MANNIKIN**. Bronze-winged Mannikin, Hooded Finch.

107.—**MAGPIE MANNIKIN**. Giant Mannikin, Magpie Finch, Giant Magpie Finch, Pied Grassfinch.

110.—**FIREFINCH**. Common Firefinch, Senegal Firefinch, African Firefinch

112.—**GREEN AVADAVAT**. Green Waxbill, Green Munia.

113.—**CUTTHROAT**. Ribbon Finch, Coral-neck.

115.—**DIAMOND SPARROW**. Spotted-sided Finch.

117.—**MELBA FINCH**. Melba Waxbills, Crimson-faced Waxbill.

118.—**AURORA FINCH**. Crimson-winged Waxbill, Crimson-winged Fincn

119.—**ZEBRA FINCH**. Chestnut-eared Finch.

120.—**BICHENO FINCH**. Double-banded Finch.

120.—**BLACK-RUMPED BICHENO FINCH**. Black-rumped Double-banded Finch, Black-rumped Finch, Black-ringed Finch.

To be continued.

The Birds of Tasmania.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

(Concluded from page 227).

THE LAKE DISTRICT: Mr. Geoffrey Smith describes this district as being 3,000 feet above sea level, and bleak and barren. It is used by the stock-owners, as what little grass there is remains fresh and green when that of the lowlands is all parched and dried up, but I had better fully quote the Author.

> " Whenever the sandstone prevails among the lowland hills the " country is open, and thinly timbered with Gums, Wattles, and Honey- " suckles, with rich grazing land spread out under them; but on ascending " the lower tiers the bush becomes thicker, and the unprofitable nature of " the greenstone is shown by the vast tracts of unreclaimed forest country, " stretching for miles in all directions. The undergrowth in these gum " forests is never very dense and there are large upland plains between " the tiers covered with coarse sedges; one is at once struck with the " quantity of Crows and Crow-shrikes that haunt these regions, the Jet- " black Crow *(Corvus coronoides)*, whose cry is raucous; the Black Magpie " *(Strepera fuliginosa)*, a large black bird with some white tail feathers, " which is very common here and nowhere else, though it is found rarely " in south-eastern Australia; and the White Magpie with its curious bell-like " call. In the forest country, too, large flocks of noisy, inquisitive Miners " are met with, and the noisy Wattle-bird *(Anthochaera inguris)*, another " of the *Meliphagidae* or Honey-eaters, is very common in summer time. " This extraordinary bird, the largest of the Honey-eaters, being about " the size of a pigeon, slaty-grey in colour, and with a very long tail, is " confined to Tasmania, and receives its name from the yellow fleshy " pendants which hang down from the ears; it emits the most extraordinary " cry of any bird, being comparable to a man drawing a cork out of a " bottle and then being violently sick."

THE NORTH AND THE WEST COASTS: The Author states that the west coast country exhibits the finest scenery and some of the most interesting natural products of the island. The principal features are its mountainous character and dense forests.

> " The bird-life of the myrtle forests is not nearly so rich as in the " gum forests, largely due no doubt to the absence of the gum-flowers " which attract so many insects and insectivorous birds. The native " 'Robins' of various species are very abundant, and I saw here (Waratah) " several Pink-breasted Robins, the male of which has the breast of a

"beautiful claret colour . . . . Certain features in this region, though
"few actual species, are of course shared in common with the rest of
"Australia: the prevalent Eucalypti, the Honey-eaters and Parrots, etc."

I have, from space exigencies, purposely refrained from giving more than the barest indications of the nature of the country and scenery, and though the bird notes of these two sections of the book are very few, I trust that as a whole, they may interest our readers as much as they did myself.

◆

Swan-Geese.

Reprinted from *Country Life*, October 26th, 1918, with apologies and best thanks.—Ed., B.N.

"Sir,—Three years ago, on the river Kelvin, which at this point "forms the boundary between the City of Glasgow and Dumbartonshire, "a Black Australian Swan *(Cygnus australis)* mated with a Canadian Goose "*(Bernicia canadensis)*. A fine healthy hybrid was produced, and this "bird is at present preserved in the Zoo at Edinburgh, where it has been a "source of much interest to ornithologists and others. The following "year the same birds mated again; the eggs this time were collected, as it "was feared that they might be destroyed by rats, and under a hen one "hybrid was hatched out and that also went to the Zoo. The mother, "after her first clutch of eggs had been taken from her, laid again and "reared four hybrids as a second brood. During the following winter "two of these hybrids were despatched to Edinburgh. In July of this "year it was noticed one day that instead of two hybrids wont to be seen "on the river, three were swimming about together. Enquiry was made "of the Zoo authorities in Edinburgh, and it was ascertained that two of "their birds had escaped when they were attempting to catch them in order "to clip their wings. One was recovered from a neighbouring farm, the "other flew home, a distance of about fifty miles, and took up its residence "on the home river just as if it had never been away. I think your "readers may be interested to hear about the facts mentioned above, for "surely such a homing instinct in a bird half a swan and half a goose, "in itself a great rarity, is very interesting. If any of your readers who "may have heard or had an experience of a similar occurrence would make "it known through your correspondence columns, it would be of great "interest.—G.I.C."

Correspondence.

DETAILS IN ARTICLES.

Sir,—There is every probability that after the war there will be many members of the F.B.C., now without birds, who are anxoius to begin again with their hobby, and who may take the opportunity for branching into pastures new, and to do this it will be necessary for them to have some experience, and this will have to be acquired from others.

I would therefore suggest that a series of articles be written by members who have had experience, in which they give particulars of various types of birds.

I for one propose to start one or more (the latter I fear) aviaries for parrakeets, but before I do this I will have to profit by the experience of others if I am to have any chance of success in my proposed undertaking, and more important still with fairness to the birds.

Our object should be not so much the keeping of the birds alive, but keeping them in a manner which will provide comfort for the birds, and at the same time supply them with conditions most likely to produce breeding results.

As at present no birds are being imported, and even if they were it is better to be, to as large an extent as possible, self-supporting; this will mean a larger number of birds for sale which are healthy, and should induce dealers to bring their birds over in a more hygienic manner than at present.

To resume: before I can start with parrakeets I must learn something about them and their peculiarities one with the other, so have laid down for myself a type of bird to keep and stick to this until I know more.

Despite very interesting articles by the Marquis of Tavistock in particular and also others, I have not been able to glean the information I require, and I take it that others are in the same predicament.

I want to keep only the smaller species of this type *(psittaci)*, taking the red-rump as the largest size, or birds very near to that, and adding just a pair of birds (which will agree) of the Rosella type, but I do want to keep birds likely to breed.

With this object in view I seek for the following information;

Birds which will agree, which will probably breed, and also the numbers of each for any individual aviary. If one were to take a standard aviary of, say 30 feet x 30 feet, and ask members what can be kept in that, we could easily reduce or increase according to the size of aviary we had. So I would suggest that the article took some such form as this:

Aviary 30 feet x 30 feet. The following could be kept:
List 1.
List 2.

Where two pairs of birds of nearly related species do not agree a foot-note could be inserted to the effect that bird *A* could be substituted for bird *B*.

Then to follow a list of the various birds, the following particulars to be given of each.

1. Size.
2. Approx. price.
3. Easily obtainable or otherwise.
4. Easy to breed or not.
5. How to sex, if sexes are similar in plumage.
6. Treatment and food if at all out of the ordinary.
7. Delicate or otherwise.
8. Whether peaceful or not—I would personally like to know this with regard to the following:

Lovebirds.—Black-cheeked, Peach-faced (Rosy-faced), Red-faced (Red-headed), and Blue-winged.

Parrakeets.—Rosella, Mealy Rosella, Cockateel, Blue-winged Grass, Quaker, and many others of a similar size, such as Budgerigars, Hooded, Tovi, etc.

The same or similar information could, with advantage, be given with regard to Finches, Doves, Quail, Softbills and Weavers. This information would be extra useful if, in the latter four cases, it were added whether suitable or not to keep with finches, but I would suggest in this case the size of aviary should not be larger than 20 feet x 20 feet.

W. A. BAINBRIDGE,
Captain, A.S.C.

[It has been frequently urged that authors, when writing of any given species or a breeding success, should give the fullest details their experience covers, and at the same time include size and description of aviary and a list of inmates. However, much of this information can be "dug out" of back vols. of "B.N."; nevertheless, if those members keeping parrots, parrakeets, lories, lorikeets, and lovebirds in groups, would kindly write an article on the lines of Capt. Bainbridge's letter, they would confer a boon on many of their fellow members—we should welcome same.—Editor.]

BIRD NOTES OF NEW MILTON DISTRICT.

Sir,—I am sending a few notes hoping they may interest such of our members as take a pleasure in our own avifauna.

There has been quite an increase of Jays and Magpies about this neighbourhood, which, I hope, will be continued, and the birds unmolested, as it is delightful to hear and get occasional glimpses of them.

I saw, the other day, a bird going through some most interesting evolutions in the air; I watched it for some time with great fascination. It may have been a falcon, but I could not place it; it did not hover as the kestrel does—it may have been a sparrow-hawk, but I have very little acquaintance with this bird.

I have an idea that the Little Owl has come into this district. I have heard a new cry at dusk lately, and once saw a smallish bird, about the length of a blackbird, on the roof of my bird-house. One note is something between a puppy's bark and a whistle; another is a chattering note.

Goldfinches seem plentiful here, but the Stonechat, Cirl Bunting, and one or two others are scarcer, possibly through the gorse being cut and burnt.

A Snipe, for the past two seasons, has used a marshy spot near, for a short time, possibly before leaving for its breeding haunts.

I have not heard any redpolls here for certain yet. I had them roosting close to me, when in camp on special service, near St. Olave's, in Suffolk.

I have heard recently a thrush-like note once or twice after dark, possibly a redwing or a migrating thrush.

Upper Ashley, New Milton, Hants., October 26th, 1918. J. WEIR.

◆

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Bramble Finch incubating.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

British Birds in and around my Aviaries.

By W. SHORE BAILY.

The title of this article may be deemed a strange one. " Around my aviaries " might very well mean a pretty large tract of country, and, it is of course obvious that all the birds found therein must be British. As a matter of fact the birds referred to in these notes were all seen within one hundred yards of the aviary walls. These aviaries are from many points of view very well situated. On the north side a shrubbery, containing some large and ancient trees, provides shelter from the winter winds; on the south, a small but rapid stream runs within twenty yards of the largest of them; to the east is a paddock, also well sheltered by shrubbery, which is used for the Geese, and on the remaining side is a large pond, the subject of an article already published in B.N. These surroundings naturally lend themselves to bird-life, but for some reason very few of the more uncommon species make their permanent home here. At any rate I have never succeeded in finding their nests.

The most interesting visitor this season has been the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. I have not actually seen it, but its call, somewhat resembling that of its larger cousin, the Green Woodpecker, is quite unmistakable. The latter bird I have seen here, but only on one occasion.

A far commoner bird and one that is with us all the year round is the Nuthatch. A pair can be heard most mornings directly the sun is up, hammering away at the half-dead trunk of a lofty acacia.

Another uncommon visitor is the Crossbill, one of which was found on the lawn one summer, with a damaged wing. It lived for some time in one of the aviaries.

Wagtails are very numerous, and either Pied, Grey, or Yellow are nearly always to be seen running about the lawn, or over the wires of the aviaries, on which they seem to find a plentiful supply of food.

One day this year, a strange bird was seen bathing in a pool of water, left after rain on a sheet of galvanized iron, on the top of one of the aviaries. This proved to be an immature specimen of the Common Sandpiper, a bird not infrequently seen on the afore-mentioned stream, but always in adult plumage.

On another occasion great excitement was caused amongst my children by the advent of a Little Grebe on the lawn. Numbers of them are bred every year on the pond, but how this one arrived on the lawn I cannot say. I was surprised to find how quickly it could run—or rather waddle, but it was quite unable to get on the wing. Needless to say, Moorhens are very numerous, and in hard weather they even venture into the stable yard.

That gorgeous fellow, the Kingfisher, can be seen every day, but that still more interesting bird, the Dipper, only visits us at long intervals. I always thought that this bird entered the water by walking into it, but one day this summer I was able to watch one at very close range, feeding in water about a foot deep, and found that it dived in, taking a complete header, in fact.

Amongst the birds of prey, the harsh voices of two species of Owls—the Barn and the Brown, are to be heard most nights, and one sometimes gets glimpses of the birds themselves. Owls seem very plentiful these war times. I was covert shooting in the neighbourhood one day this week (November) and saw three species, the two already mentioned, and the Little Owl. There was quite a flock of the Brown Owl, a bird not usually spared by game preservers, but the absence of gamekeepers at the front has given all these birds a chance now of increasing. The Kestrel I have seen once in a while, hovering over the aviaries, and a Sparrow Hawk, one day this week, nearly knocked my gardener's hat off, as it swept around the corner in pursuit of a Blackbird. We have also had one or two visits from a Merlin, but, as far as I know, no damage has ever been done to the aviary occupants by any of these birds.

Another visitor I must note is the Nightjar, whose weird cry can often be heard in the dusk of the evening. When disturbed, it has a peculiar habit of flying a short distance, and then alighting on the road or path, with its face towards its disturber. I have often wondered what these birds do for food in a hard winter. Do they hibernate? One that was brought to me, unable to fly, lived for an extraordinary length of time without food (several weeks), and when it finally "gave up the ghost," its body did not decay. They are interesting birds, and have, I believe, been successfully kept in captivity.

Other attractive birds that visit us in the summer months are the Redstart and the Spotted Flycatcher; from three nests of this latter bird young were reared, within fifty yards of the aviaries this year.

Of the birds in my aviaries, I will mention those first that find their way in of their own accord. One large aviary is covered on the top with 2-inch wire-netting, the sides and ends, with a view to keeping out rats, being of 1½-inch mesh. The most welcome visitors to this one are a pair of Kingfishers, who, attracted by the Sticklebacks that breed in the pond, are often to be found fishing there. Whilst they find their way in through the 2-inch mesh easily enough, they generally have a little difficulty in finding their way out, so one gets a good view of them as they circle around. Blackbirds, Thrushes, Starlings, and many others visit the pond here for bathing, and it is a pretty sight to watch them on hot days, all splashing in the water together.

The neighbouring aviary is covered with ⅝-inch mesh netting, and through this the following birds have at different times found their way—Golden-crested and Willow Wrens, also Chiffchaffs, the latter in considerable numbers. After a few days they generally make their way out again. The latest visitor is a cock Great Tit, and it looks as if he is going to remain a prisoner.

All the other aviaries are covered with ½-inch mesh netting, and the only bird that has been able to get through this is the Common Wren, and it is of course possible that it may have got in through a broken mesh. This bird lived in captivity for nearly a year, becoming very tame.

The British birds I have introduced myself are the Fieldfare (an account of the nesting of this species appeared in B.N. last year) the Redwing, the Nuthatch, the Cirl Bunting, the Reed Bunting, the Brambling, the Greenfinch and the Hawfinch. Of these, the only ones that nested this year were the Bramblings, Greenfinches, Cirl, and Reed Buntings.

The Greenfinches were two hens, but they mated with an odd cock Chinese Greenfinch, and had several nests, half a dozen fine youngsters being fully reared. These resembled their male parent. In the first nest ot young ones, a cock Yellow Weaver took a great deal of interest, and although I never actually saw him feed them, he was nearly always near them, and he occupied a good deal of his time in weaving a wind screen and cover to the nest (*vide* plate), the mother finch in no way objecting.

The Bramblefinch hen built a very pretty nest *(vide frontispiece)* in a willow, and hatched out four young ones Unfortunately an invasion of rats at this time made it necessary for me to have some men into the aviary to block up their holes. These idiots elected to hang their coats on the willow in which the nest was situated, and, as they were there nearly all day, it caused the hen to desert. The next day I found the day-old young ones stone cold, but thinking that there might still be some life in them, I put two into a Greenfinch's nest, containing one young one about a week old, and two into another finch's nest containing infertile eggs. One young one was alive the next day in each nest, and they survived several days longer, but made no growth, so I don't think that they could have been properly fed. The hen Brambling disappeared, but whether she fell a victim to the rats, or died of a broken heart, I can't say.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Hybrid Greenfinches on nest.
Note canopy and wind screen worn by cock Weaver.

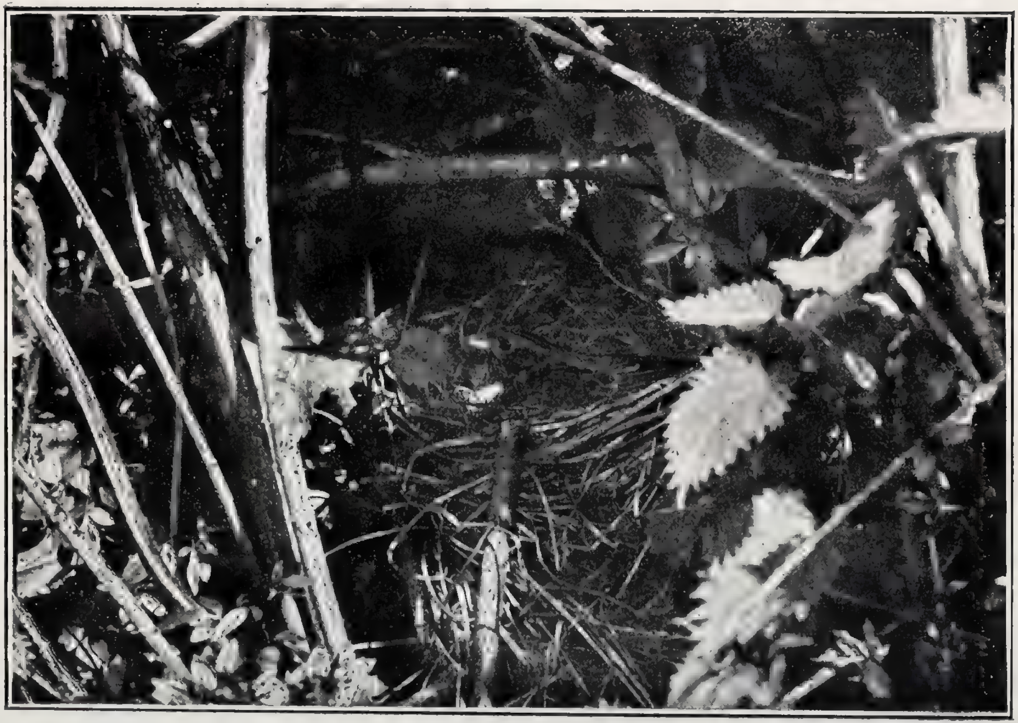


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Cirl Buntlug incubating.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Reed Bunting brooding young.

The Cirl Buntings nested early in the year, choosing a bush growing against the wall as a site for their nest. Four eggs were laid, prettily streaked and blotched in the way typical of this bird's eggs. The hen sat very closely for over two weeks, but the eggs were infertile. The second nest was in a low hedge. This time the eggs were white with a ring of black spots at the larger end, and were quite unlike any of the Buntings' eggs that I have seen. These also proved infertile, and although the hen made yet another attempt, no young were hatched.

The Reed Buntings were more lucky, as they hatched out three little ones. Queer little dusky objects they were too, and, with both parents feeding them steadily, they grew rapidly, but when about ten days old they disappeared, and as there were rats in the aviary at this time, I suppose they fell victims to these brutes. The nest was situated in a conifer about three feet from the ground, and was neatly constructed of bents and grasses, and lined with feathers. The young ones were fed, as far as I could see, entirely on insects, which the old birds caught principally upon reeds in the pond, but I also saw them taking aphidæ on some blighted larch trees. Their second attempt was also a failure, their eggs disappearing after a week's incubation. The rats again in all probability! I always thought that these birds nested on the ground, and, I believe, that they do so in many instances, but mine, in both cases, selected a small black spruce for their building sites.

The Hawfinches did not nest. These appear to be very shy birds, and they are not very satisfactory in the aviary, as unlike their handsome eastern cousins, the Black-tailed Hawfinches, who are always to be seen, and are not at all shy, these spend all their time out of sight in the densest cover that they can find.

The Redwings were also defaulters, much to my disappointment, and, as I was unable to get another hen Fieldfare, I had no chance of breeding this variety either.

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

BY E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59.

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH NAMES, *continued.*

121.—AVADAVAT. Amaduvad and various other spellings. Red Munia, Red Waxbill, book names. Firefinch, Indian Firefinch, Tiger Finch, Strawberry Finch, dealers' names performing the function of a brace-bird.

123.—ZEBRA WAXBILL. Golden-breasted Waxbill, Goldbreast, Orange-breasted Waxbill.

126.—MAJA FINCH. White-headed Nun, White-headed Mannikin.

127.—TRICOLOURED MANNIKIN. Three-coloured Mannikin, Three-coloured Nun, White-chested Nun.

128.—CHOCOLATE MANNIKIN. Black-headed Mannikin—Nun—Munia—Finch.

129.—CHESTNUT FINCH. Chestnut-breasted Finch.

131.—NUTMEG FINCH. Spice-bird, Bar-breasted Finch, Barred Munia, Spotted Munia, Nutmeg Bird, Spice Finch.

132.—PECTORAL FINCH. White-breasted Chestnut Finch.

136.—CHERRY FINCH. Modest Grassfinch, Plumhead Finch, Plain-coloured Finch.

137.—INDIAN SILVERBILL. Malabar Silverbill.

139.—SYDNEY WAXBILL. Temporal Finch, Red-eyebrowed Finch, Australian Waxbill.

140.—RUFOUS-TAILED GRASSFINCH. Rufous-tailed Finch, Ruficauda Finch, Red-tailed Finch. " Red-tail," " Star " Finch," in Australia.

142.—PARSON FINCH. Banded Grassfinch.

145.—PIN-TAILED NONPAREIL. Pin-tailed Parrot-Finch, Javan Nonpareil, Indian Nonpareil.

148.—TRICOLOURED PARROT FINCH. Three-coloured Parrot Finch (the better name, as there is a *Erythrura* tricolour, as well as *E. trichroa*, this species).

149.—CRIMSON FINCH. Australian Firefinch, Australian Blood-finch, Ruby Finch.

150.—ST. HELENA WAXBILL. Pheasant Finch.

151.—GREY WAXBILL. Common Waxbill, African Waxbill, Senegal Waxbill.

152.—CRIMSON-RUMPED WAXBILL. Sundevall's Waxbill.
153.—LAVENDER FINCH. Lavender Waxbill, Cinereous Waxbill.
154.—CORDON BLEU. Crimson-eared Waxbill.
155.—BLUE-BREASTED WAXBILL. Angola Cordon Bleu.
158.—CHESTNUT-BACKED WEAVER. Chestnut Weaver, Chestnut and Black Weaver.
159.—RUFOUS-NECKED WEAVER. Rufous-throated Weaver.
162.—BLACK-HEADED WEAVER. Black-hooded Weaver.
164.—LITTLE MASKED WEAVER. Dwarf Weaver.
165.—BLACK-FRONTED WEAVER. Masked Weaver.

TANAGRIDAE.

172.—BISHOP TANAGER. *Tanagra episcopus.* ("Blue Tanager") **W.T.P.**
1st Easton Scott, 1911. See B.N. 1911, 238, 1912, 66.

173.—WESTERN PALM TANAGER. *T. palmarum melanoptera.* **W.T.P.**
1st Pennant, F.B.C. Medal, 1912. B.N. 1912, 338.

174.—SCARLET TANAGER. *Rhamphocoelus brasiliensis.* **W.T.P.**
1st Easton Scott, 1912. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1912, 338. Zoo, 1912
Abroad. Qst Princess Croy †Russ.

175.—BLACK TANAGER. *Tachyphonus rufus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Teschemaker, 1906. A.S. Medal. A.M. n.s. iv. 331.
Zoo, 1909.

176.—MAGPIE TANAGER. *Cissopsis leveriana.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1912, but the young died after leaving the nest, therefore unless the record indicated by "W.T.P." be accepted, this entry will have to be included in brackets to mark an incomplete success.

YELLOW-WINGED SUGAR-BIRD. *Cyanerpes cyaneus.*
Chawner records almost complete success both in 1915 and 1916, the young living a fortnight on each occasion. See A.M. 1916, 270 and 1917, 57.

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH NAMES.

TANAGRIDAE

172.—BISHOP TANAGER. Episcopal Tanager; Blue Tanager.
173.—WESTERN PALM TANAGER. Black-winged Tanager.
174.—SCARLET TANAGER. Brazillian Tanager; Brazilian Scarlet T.; Red and Black Tanager.

◆

ICTERIDAE.

177.—RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. *Agelaeus phoeniceus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Zoo, 1912. Also in 1913.

◆

178.—PURPLE GRACKLE. *Quiscalus quiscalus.*
Abroad. 1st Wentko. In 1894 †A.G.B. ii. 23.

◆

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH NAMES.

ICTERIDAE.

177.—RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. Redwing, Marsh Blackbird, Blackbird Starling; (Popular names in America).
Red-shouldered Blackbird, Red-shouldered Starling, Red-shouldered Marsh-Starling; Red-shouldered Oriola; Red-shouldered Troupial; Red-winged Starling, etc.

178.—PURPLE GRACKLE. Crow-Blackbird. (U.S.A.).

◆

STURNIDAE.

179.—STARLING. *Sturnus vulgaris.* **W.T.P.**

◆

180.—ANDAMAN STARLING. *Spodiopsar andamanensis.* **W.T.P.**
1st Farrar. A.S. Medal, 1901. See A.M. vii. 192.
Hybrids.

ANDAMAN STARLING × MALABAR MYNAH.
Zoo, 1905. (2).
× Andaman Starling (Malabar Mynah). †Page, see note to next entry.

181.—MALABAR MYNAH. *Spodiopsar malabaricus.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1904 (4); and Farrar †A.G.B. ii. 41.

Also by Wiener †Russ. ? whether in the United Kingdom or abroad (E.H.)

HYBRIDS.

MALABAR MYNAH × ANDAMAN STARLING. W.T.P.

Thus given in Page's list. ? whether it refers to the cross the other way already given under Andaman Starling, or to a different event.

× Malabar Mynah (Andaman Starling).

182.—PAGODA MYNAH. *Temenuchus pagodarum.* **W.T.P.**

1st Farrar, 1901. A.S. Medal. See A.M. vii. 197.

183.—COMMON MYNAH. *Acridotheres tristis.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1905.

184.—INDIAN MYNAH. *A. gingianus.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1909.

185.—BROWN MYNAH. *Aethiopsar fuscus.*

Abroad. "Bred in the Berlin Zoo, one young one reared." A.G.B. ii. 46.

186.—CRESTED MYNAH. *A. cristatellus.*

Abroad. By Wiener †Russ. But Butler (A.G.B. ii. 46) writes, "Russ states that Wiener bred the species successfully in 1875; but if he did he has not mentioned the fact anywhere that I am aware of."

(In Russ' list is also included the "Red-billed Crested Mynah *(Sturnus cristatetelloides* : Hodg*)*." This is probably *A. cristatellus.* E.H.).

187.—GREEN-WINGED GLOSSY STARLING. *Lamprocolius chalybeus,* or more probably the more commonly imported West African species, *L. chloropterus.*

W.T.P. London Zoo, teste Wiener, †Russ. (A.G.B. ii. 36).

188.—PURPLE GLOSSY STARLING. *L. purpureus.*

In the London Zoo, †Russ ,but Butler says that he can find no record of the fact in the Proceedings. "Wiener says, 'young were hatched there in 1871 and 1874.'" A.G.B. ii. 35.

In his list Russ also gives the "Schillernder Glanz Star" as having been bred in the Berlin Aquarium. The particular Glossy Starling meant, I cannot say. E.H.

◆

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH NAMES.

STURNIDAE.

180.—ANDAMAN STARLING. Andaman Mynah.

181.—MALABAR MYNAH. *Grey-headed, Pagoda-Starling, Grey-headed Mynah.*

182.—PAGODA MYNAH. Pagoda Starling, Black-headed Mynah.

184.—INDIAN MYNAH. Bank Mynah.

185.—BROWN MYNAH. Jungle Mynah.

CORRIGENDA: Page 94. First footnote not wanted. Has slipped in by mistake obviously. The dagger here and elsewhere = "on the authority of" and cannot therefore be used as an extra asterisk.

Page 95. The two foot-notes are not really needed, as the entry (31) is that of *S. ictericus*, and the note under B.-H. Siskin × Cape Canary, W.T.P. says that the alario was probably meant.

(To be continued.)

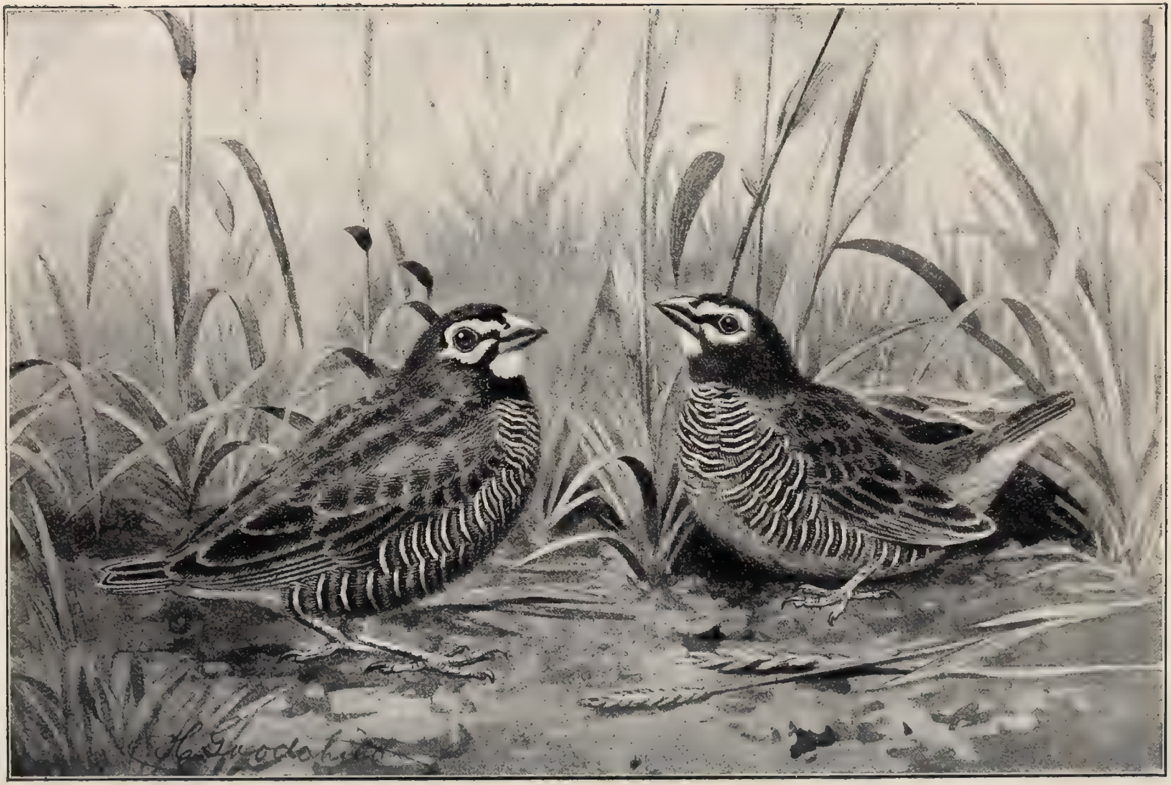
◆

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 247).

Quail Finch *(Ortygospiza polyzona).* These spend most of their time upon the ground, and in consequence should not be wintered out of doors. A bank of grass should be arranged for them, with one or two spreading bushes on top of same; this provides them with dryish squatting quarters, and also is a suitable nesting site for them. These are not prolific breeders, and only one or two have met with success in this respect. They are interesting little birds, and as the popular name implies, resemble miniature quail, and also possess many of their characteristics. They may also be designated ground birds, for as a rule they only take to the branches on the occasion


H. Goodchild

Quail Finches (*Ortygospiza polyzona*).

of a sudden scare. For the benefit of new readers we reprint Mr. Goodchild's fine drawing of this species. As their finely contrasted plumage is so well shown in the drawing, space need not be occupied with a description.

Its habitat is Africa.

BLACK-FACED QUAIL FINCH *(O. atricollis).* Very similar to *polyzona*, but its plumage is not so strikingly contrasted as the preceding species. It was introduced to English aviculture by our member, Dr. E. Hopkinson, about six years ago. It has not yet been successfully bred in this country so far as I know. Its nesting economy and general characteristics are so similar in every respect to *polyzona*, that to give them would be merely to recapitulate what I have written above. They should not be wintered out of doors, but are not really delicate when once acclimatised, though losses are rather numerous among arrivals of newly imported birds. I must qualify this by stating that the risk of loss is quite an ordinary one when importations arrive in the late spring or during the summer.

It is a native of Africa.

FIREFINCH *(Lagonosticta minima).* This well known and freely imported species is at once the most charming and disappointing of African finches, except perhaps the Cordon Bleu. The losses among purchases of new imported specimens is really disheartening, no matter how tightly feathered and well looking the birds may be. Yet acclimatised specimens have been wintered out of doors, but in our uncertain climate it is better to take them into the indoor birdroom for the winter months. They have been fairly freely bred, though many pairs get no further than building a nest (or sleeping quarters), but, given an ordinary season, one may reasonably anticipate success in a naturally planted garden aviary.

With careful nursing of new acquisitions the majority should be saved, but on arrival they should be given warm, quiet quarters in the birdroom, a roomy cage for preference, and be given only chilled water to drink at first. If there is any appearance of exhaustion then a little tepid milk and water, containing two or three drops of brandy, is a good reviver.

They are an acquisition in any aviary, the beauty of the male being undeniable, and amid the foliage of, say, a privet bush or retinospora, this wee fiery feathered sprite is a sight to be remembered. In fact, in a roomy outdoor aviary, several pairs should be given summer quarters therein.

They require only the usual seed menu at all times, as they catch sufficient small insects in the aviary to rear their young successfully.

An African species.

RED-HEADED FINCH *(Amadina erythrocephala).* A large, rather clumsily formed, finch, yet nevertheless a very handsome one too, in fact a sort of large edition of the Cutthroat, minus its scarlet breast band, with which it rather readily interbreeds, quite handsome hybrids being the result. It is hardy and can be successfully kept out of doors all the year round.

The sexes are easily distinguished as the female lacks the red-head of the male.

I should class this species as a free but irregular breeder, that is, once a " breeding pair " is obtained, brood after brood will be reared without difficulty while the season lasts.

I have found them quite amiable in a mixed series of large and small birds.

Its native habitat is Africa.

RUFICAUDA FINCH *(Bathilda ruficauda).* This handsome grassfinch is an ornament to any aviary. It is vivacious, merry and active, and consequently—a most desirable feature—is frequently " in the picture."

Though quite capable of passing the winter out of doors in any aviary containing a dry, draught-proof shelter, yet an abnormally wet winter tries it severely, and after such a period there are often annoying losses in the early spring, and when such a winter turns up it had better be taken indoors; nevertheless, during any ordinary, normal English winter it can be left out without causing it any discomfort.

The female has less red about the head than the male, though occasionally hens turn up which even an "old hand" will take for males.

It can hardly be called a free breeder, yet it has been successfully bred in several aviaries, but is somewhat erratic in this respect.

It has successfully reared young on two occasions in my aviaries.

It is a native of Australia.

LAVENDER FINCH *(Lagonosticta caerulescens).* An exquisite African species, and a freely imported one in normal times.

So far as I am aware this species has only once been bred in this country, our member Miss R. Alderson achieving this distinction.

It is not a long-lived species, and as difficult to acclimatise as the Firefinch and Cordon Bleu; and similar care with new arrivals is necessary during the first few weeks following importation.

In Easter 1914 I saw, in Surrey aviary of only moderate size but well sheltered, several Lavender Finches, which had been out of doors all the year round for at least three years which were the finest specimens in every respect that I had ever seen.

Still, a species of such beauty is worth taking trouble with to get it acclimatised, and also caring for well afterwards in the way of sufficient snug shelter during inclement winter. On clayey or any wet retentive soils no attempt should be made to winter it out of doors.

To be continued.

Birdroom Notes, 1918.

By Mrs. Burgess.

Zebra Finches.--These made, to me, a really wonderful nest in a Hartz travelling-cage, composed of grasses, etc. They are great builders; the nest is constructed inside the cage, while around it is stuffed all kinds of grass, so thickly that it is impossible to see the nest till one goes into the flight and looks right through, then one sees a perfectly round, long shaped nest running from the front to back of cage like a tunnel, and right at the back sits the hen incubating her clutch of eggs.

So far no young have been reared, but a large number of eggs have been laid.

The cock carried all the material, and worked as though his life depended upon it; small as he is, no other bird dare go near his nest if one ventured, as Mr. Zebra thought, too near—quick march is the word.

Cutthroats.—These also have laid numbers of eggs without any definite result. After the clutch is laid they forsake them and set about building another home, their latest effort being laying six eggs in one husk, then leaving them and building another nest in a finch box. Like the Zebra Finch the cock Cutthroat is indefatigable in carrying material, but I have never seen the hen do this.

Red-billed Weavers.—These spend most of the hours of the day weaving material in and out of the wires of their flight.

Avadavats.--These are very little in evidence, as they spend most of their time snugly domiciled in a rush nest.

Silverbill × Bengali.—These have cross mated, but there has been no result to date.

Budgerigars.--Both Yellow and Green pairs are all busy nesting, the hens spending most of their time in the nest with their husbands keeping guard sitting on their respective husks. This looks so funny, and when my Lady's head appears at the front door all is excitement. What an amount of chattering and hissing occurs.

Bird-life is not without its tragedies; one poor hen fell and broke her leg and seemed unable to fly, and the cock was in a great state, for at home there were five eggs awaiting her attention she tried hard to climb up the wires, but over a certain branch she seemed unable to get the cock went to her assistance, and it was a pretty and pathetic sight to watch their efforts, which, after several failures, were at last crowned with success.

February.—On 24th young Cutthroats were in the nest, their presence indicated by their voices calling for food; three days later their voices were much stronger, and apparently all was going well. Not wishing to distress them, I did not examine the nest to see how many there were, though most anxious to know.

At last I am the proud possesser of a hen Blue Budgerigar, and hope for luck with the Green blue-bred ones.

May.—Have had hard luck; the Blue Budgerigar went to nest, but died while with eggs.

Bad luck also attended the Cutthroats—there were six young ones, but none were fully reared.

My Alexandrine Parrakeets are incubating three eggs.

The Rosella Parrakeets are laying clear eggs; I do not seem to be able to get a true cock; those sent as such, though beautiful and brilliant birds, have all proved later to be hens.

Cockateels and Red-rump Parrakeets have eggs, but seem very unsteady.

Budgerigars are doing well. All pairs are either feeding young or engaged in the duties of incubation. This applies both to the pure Greens and Yellows, and the Green blue-bred ones.

A Red-crested Cardinal mated with a Pope is busy building in a hanging basket; many kinds of birds seem fond of the latter to nest in.

A cock Canary has nested with a Saffron Finch, and another Canary is mated with a hen Bullfinch, and both pairs have eggs. Has the first named cross been reared yet?* The cock canary is a Lizard with a clear gold cap.

How strangely a bird's choice of a mate seems at times! A cock Tui fell in love with a Budgerigar, and they were very devoted to each other. The Budgerigar became ill, and for a time had to be kept separately; when she was returned to the aviary the fuss the Tui made was a most pleasing and interesting sight; he kissed and preened her, they were inseparable, and she would have nothing to do with any other Budgerigar. She laid eggs by the Tui, but became egg-bound, and, in spite of all my efforts at relief, died. The eggs were white, but a little larger than Budgerigar eggs. The Tui never left the husk, and died two days after his wife, I believe of a broken heart.

July.—My cock Crested Mynah has mated with a Hill Mynah, and they are busy carrying material and building in a large box. They appear to be devoted to each other, and chatter away together in a most pleasing and comic manner. I consider them two of my most interesting birds, they are so clever and attractive in many ways. One day I missed the hen, and the next time I saw her out of the box I took the opportunity of looking in and found one egg, and the next day she laid another; she sat but she sat too hard! The eggs were a pretty greenish-blue, spotted with brown.

They have been much occupied with building since, but no more eggs have been laid, and I have given up my hopes of any successful result. Is not this rather rare? Have Mynahs been reared in England?†

Summary.—Budgerigars have been the best this year, and have reared quite a number of young. There have been plenty of eggs from the various species I keep, but no young fully reared.

---

* Yes, by Dr. A. G. Butler.—Ed.

† *Vide* page 269 of this issue.—Ed.

Swan-Geese Hybrids.

Reprinted from "Country Life," with apologies to the Editor.—Ed., B.N.

"Sir,—With reference to the letter of "G. I .C." in a recent "number of *Country Life*, the instance of a black swan—Canada goose "hybrid—is certainly unique. The nearest approach to it that I can "recollect is of a hybrid between a male mute swan and a female domestic "goose which was bred by a lady in Norfolk some eight years ago. I "regret to say I forget her name, although she very kindly furnished me "with full details. In this instance the swan was on a pond with two geese "whose eggs were collected for cooking. One goose laid away, and it "was found that one of her eggs was fertile. If I remember rightly, the "nest was left undisturbed, and the hybrid resulted, but although dozens "of eggs were subsequently placed in an incubator, nothing more "resulted; indeed I think all were sterile. The results in both instances "point to the conclusion that the black swan is a nearer relative of the "geese than the mute swan. The hybrid was doubtless brought back to "the home waters when flying over, probably by accident, so far as a "sense of direction went by the call of the parents.—Rosslyn Mannering."

◆

Editorial.

Retrospect: While perhaps profitable, only under specially favourable circumstances is such pleasant.

Four years of war have made anything but favourable circumstances for us, and perhaps, now when peace is practically assured, is a good time to pass in brief review results and consequences thereof. Adverse circumstances may be briefly summed up as follow:

The Declaration of War found us with a deficit.

The results of the war have been a large number of unpaid subscriptions, numerous dormant members, and costs of producing the Club Journal Bird Notes very heavily increased, Those who have laid down their lives—made the great sacrifice for King and Country resulting in a depletion of our Roll.

This combination of adverse circumstances, of course, could have no other result than a heavy increase of the deficit.

Now, we may look on the other side and see the results during this period of great stress and difficulty.

We have maintained the Journal in good form, though somewhat reduced in bulk, and very few coloured plates, none at all during the last two years. As regards the volume completed with this issue, we think we can leave it to speak for itself without official comment.

The other phases of the Club's work have all been maintained with but one exception—Post Mortem. Reports have ceased during the present year, but these we hope to be able to resume early next year.

As regards the Roll, this also is satisfactory, though it may show a *small* decrease on the previous one, but by a little united effort next year should show a large increase.

A word as to the future, of which the Deficit is the only disquieting feature, but, we hope, as the result of the effort now being made, that this will be cleared entirely off, almost simultaneously with the appearance of this issue.

Undoubtedly costs of paper and printing will remain high during 1919 at least, but if the deficit be cleared off, as we hope and expect it to be, this will not be an undue strain upon us.

We suggest retaining present bulk with the Journal, and *not* to resume the issue of coloured plates until funds comfortably allow of same.

We also suggest that we resume the publishing of such an annual balance sheet in the Journal, as early in the year as possible which shall show clearly the actual financial position of the Club.

Nowithstanding the high costs of producing the Club Journal we do not suggest increasing the annual subscription, as we feel such is not permanent, and also that such a cause would be derogatory to the future usefulness and progress of the Club. Instead we shall ask the members when the balance sheet appears to contribute to any deficit there may be. With a little help to the Illustration Fund during the year from those members who appreciate this feature, the deficit on the coming year, if any, should be very small.

We congratulate members on a successful year's work.

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JANUARY, 1918.

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ALDERSON, Miss R., Park House, Worksop. (March, 1909).

ALLAN, J. W. Bondgate, Alnwick. (April, 1911).

ALMOND, The Rev. F., Dormant. (February, 1906).

ALT, Mrs., M., 28, Melrose Gardens, Hammersmith, London, W. (April, 1914).

AMES, Mrs. HOBART, North Easton, Massachussetts, U.S.A. (March, 1913).

AMOR, STANLEY, 29, Shelly Road, Bath. (February, 1916).

AMSLER, DR. MAURICE, Eton Court House, High Street, Eton, Windsor. (March, 1909).

ANDERSON, J. H., Dormant. (February, 1914).

ANDREWS, F. J., Gordon House, Woodbridge. (December, 1911).

ANNINGSON, Mrs., 4, The Cresent, The Park, Plymouth. (December, 1901).

APPLEBY, K. A., Dormant. (October, 1910).

ARMSTRONG, Mrs. A. M., Newton Purcell Rectory, Buckingham. (November, 1915).

ARNOLD, R., Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (March, 1912).

ARNOTT, PETER, Grant Street, Alloa. (December, 1913).

ARRIGHI, L. J., Harrison View, Watson Cresent, Edinburgh. (March, 1908).

ASTON, Capt. S. WILFRED, Dormant. (September, 1915).

ATTWELL, HAROLD E., Cassia Grove, Halfway Tree, P.O., Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. (March, 1910).

AUSTIN, W. E., Wandsworth Public Libraries, Allfarthing Lane, Wandsworth, London, S.W. (April, 1909).

AVERY, Mrs. A., 63, Windsor Road, Forest Gate, S.E. (March, 1917).

BADDELEY, A., Dormant. (July, 1912).

BAILY, W. SHORE, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).

BAINBRIDGE, Lieut., W. A., Hazelwood, Thorpe, Chertsey. (September, 1912).

Baines, R., 6, Toronto Street, Monk's Road, Lincoln. (February, 1916).

Baker, Mrs. H. G., Dormant. (December, 1914).

Bamford, Wm., The Coppice, Werneth, Oldham. (June, 1904).

Bamfylde, The Hon. Mrs., Whitechapel Manor, South Molton, North Devon, (July, 1911).

Barlow-Massicks, Mrs. C., Dormant. (November, 1911).

Barnaby, Miss Alison, Oak Lodge, Bitterne, Southampton. (August, 1912).

Barnard, T. T., Kempston Hoo, Bedford. (July, 1915).

Bartels, O., Esq., "Orchida," Mayne, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. (January, 1917).

Batty, Lieut., W. R., 15, Alexandra Road, Southport. (October, 1915).

Beaty, S., Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Manchester. (March, 1908)

Beazor, Rev., J. T. A. Lovell, The Nest, Bicclescombe Park, Ilfracombe. (April, 1911).

Beebe, C. W., Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A. (July, 1911).

Bentley, Ernest E., St. Mary's Lodge, Louth. (March, 1914).

Bliss, H. E., Address Unknown. (January, 1903).

Bonhote, J. L., Esq., M.A., F.Z.S., Dormant. (May, 1916).

Botting, H., Address unknown. (December, 1908).

Bourke, Hon. Mrs. Gwendolen, Hitcham Vale, Taplow, Maidenhead, and 75, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W. (December 1909).

Bousfield, Miss M., Avon Court, Southborne Road, Bournemouth. (January, 1908).

Bowerman, F., 12, Wellington Street, Swindon. (September, 1914).

Bowring, Miss Clara, Ascot Heath Lodge, Ascot, Berks. (July, 1914).

Branfoot, B., Dormant. (November, 1912).

Bright, Herbert, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool. (October, 1911).

Brook, E. J., F.Z.S., Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan. (March, 1908).

Brown, Mrs. C., Dormant. (May, 1910).

Browning, W. H., 16, Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1910).

Browne, Capt. A. E., Belmont, Muree, Punjab, India. (March, 1912).

Bruce, Miss A., Chevet Park, Wakefield. (March, 1909).

Bufton, Reginald P., Dormant. (January, 1913).

Burgess, Mrs., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redlands, Bristol. (September, 1915).

Burnham, John B., Dormant. (March, 1913).

Bush, W., The County Bor. of Newport School of Art, Clarence Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Cadogan, Lt. Com. Francis, F.Z.S., etc., "Marshall Ney," c/o G.P.O., London, E.C.,1., and at Hallicrop Castle, Fairford, Glos. (August, 1917)
Calvert, Mrs. H., The Ridge, Kasuli, Punjab, India. (July, 1915).
Calvocaresi, P. J., Holme Hay, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool. (October, 1916)
Campbell, Mrs., Constance, 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, London. S.W.
Camps, H. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Ely. (Orig. Mem.).
Capern, F., Lewin's Mead, Bristol. (October, 1907).
Carr, F. J., St. Aidan's, Alnwick. (April, 1914).
Carr, J. T., Blythewood, Deramere Drive, Malone Road, Belfast. (September, 1912).
Cartwright, Mrs. E. The Hawthorns, Tickhill, Rotherham. (January, 1912)
Castello, P. M., 20, Chalfont Court, London, N.W. (November, 1916).
Castle-Gant, Mrs. A., Dormant. (June, 1915).
Chaplin, Mrs. Drummond, Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia. (July, 1914).
Chaplin, E. W., The Firs, Great Amwell, Ware. (September, 1903).
Charles, J., Dormant. (February, 1914).
Charlesworth, Miss Audry, Marnhull Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset (July, 1914).
Chatterton, Mrs., 11 Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N. (January, 1915).
Chawner, Miss E. F., Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants. (July, 1910).
Chick, Herbert, J., Dormant. (March, 1914).
Christie, Mrs. G., Kellas, By Elgin. (January, 1913).
Clare, Miss Lydia, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W. (March, 1910).
Clark, W. G., Hummers Knott, Windsor Road, Slough. (January, 1915).
Clarke, S., Dormant. (August, 1911).
Cleeburg, Chas., junr., 16, Lockerbie Road, Dumfries, N.B. (December, 1916).
Clifton, Lord, Dormant. (October, 1905).
Colton, R., 9, Birkendale Road, Sheffield. (February, 1913).
Connell, Mrs. Knatchbull, The Orchard, Brockenhurst, Hants. (July, 1912).
Constable, Rev. W. J., Dormant. (February, 1912).
Cook, Mrs. A. M., F.Z.S., 21, Oxford Road, Kilburn, N.W. (February, 1916)
Crocker, Chas. E., Burrow Inch, Lower Bourne, Farnham. (October, 1911)
Cronkshaw, J., 7, Harcourt road, Accrington. (November, 1901).
Cross, R., Dormant. (January, 1914).
Crow, C. F., Lindsey Bank House, Grimsby. (October, 1915).
Currie, J., 128, Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh. (August, 1913).
Cushny, Charles, c/o Messrs. Neish, Howell, and Haldane, 47, Watling St., St. Paul's, E.C. (Orig. Mem.)
Darrell, Dr .H. W., Dormant. (September, 1908).
tember, 1908).

Davidson, Mrs., Dormant. (April, 1911).

Davies, Mrs. M. H., Daresbury Hall, near Warrington. (January, 1914).

Dawson-Smith, Lt. F., Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks. (March 1912).

Dell, C. E., 12, High Street, Harlesden, London, N.W. (January, 1914).

Dennis, Mrs. Harold, St. Leonard's Park, Horsham. (January, 1904).

Dewar, D., I.C.S., F.Z.S., 33, Sheepcote Road, Harrow. (June, 1907).

Dewar, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.).

De Yarburg-Bateson, The Hon. Lilla, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).

Dickinson, Mrs. E., Welbeck Estate, Lovedale, Nilgiris, S. India. (January, 1918).

Ditchfield, F., 37, Nugget Street, Oldham. (April, 1914).

Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, Edinburgh. (April, 1906).

Dobson, W. B. C., Bindown, Hampton Wick. (April, 1914).

Drummond, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire. (November, 1907)

Dunkley, Mrs. H. F., Dormant. (February, 1915).

Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywater Park, Ballywater, co. Down. (November, 1901).

Dutton, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, "Mosborough," Grafton Road, Cheltenham. (May, 1906).

Dyott, Capt. R. A., Freeford, Lichfield. (November, 1912).

Earle J. Hudson, Newgate House, Cottinham, Hull. (March, 1914).

Ebrill, Wm., "Greenville," South Circular Road, Limerick. (April, 1906).

Edmunds, W., Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Wareham. (November, 1909).

Elms, E. F. M., Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey. (June, 1910).

Ezra, A., F.Z.S., 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1. (January, 1911).

Ezra, D., 3, Kyd Street, Calcutta, India. (August, 1912).

Falkner, Guy, The Cottage, Belton, Uppingham. (November, 1916).

Fasey, William R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snarebrook, N.E. (January, 1903).

Ferrar, B. D., F.Z.S., Dormant. (December, 1912).

Fisher, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham. (May, 1908).

Fisher-Rowe, H. M., St. Leonard's Grange, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (January, 1911).

Flannery, M. J., Dormant. (January, 1909).

Flower, Capt. S. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Keedah House, Zoological Gardens, Gizeh, Egypt. (March, 1909).

Forster, W. L., Smithfield, Orange Free State, S. Africa. (May, 1914).

Foster, T., Fairlight, Babbacombe, Devon. (March, 1914).

Foster, Miss E. M., 35, High Street, Huntingdon. (January, 1909).

Fowler-Ward, Dr. F., 40, Berners Street, Ipswich. (October, 1913).

Freville, Miss M. N. de, Welbeck Estate, Lovedale, Nilgiris, S. India. (January, 1916).

Frost, W. J. C., 13, Fairlawn Avenue, Chiswick Park, London, W. (August, 1913).

Frostick, J., Dormant. (December, 1909).

Galloway, Mrs. E., Fernville, Fortis Green Road, East Finchley, London, N. (November, 1907).

Galloway, P. F. M., Dormant. (November, 1907).

Garcke, Mrs. C., Wye Lodge, Maidenhead. (June, 1916).

Gardiner, Mrs. Stanley, Bredon House, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge. (January, 1913).

Gerrard, Miss M., 31, Via Sarto Spirito, Florence, Italy. (June, 1914).

Godry, Edouard, Dormant. (January, 1912).

Goodchild, H., 59, Leslie Road, East Finchley, London, N. (July, 1903)

Goodchild, J., Clare, Suffolk. (January, 1913).

Goodfellow, W., Dormant. (October, 1908).

Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (December, 1902).

Gosse, Capt. Philip, M.D., M.B.O.U., Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (April, 1910).

Graham, John, Rainbow Hotel, Kendal. (February, 1911).

Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S., (*Hon. Veterinary Surgeon*), 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, London, W. (May, 1906).

Greenall, Miss Susan, The Manor, Carlton Scroop, Grantham. (May, 1914).

Greeven, Miss M., Address Unknown. (October, 1907).

Grossmith, J. L., The Grange, Bickley, Kent. (January, 1913).

Gurney, G. H., Keswick Hall, Norwich. (June, 1913).

Haggie, Miss E., Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford. (February, 1910).

Hale, Clinton, B., Pedrogosa and Laguna, North West Corner, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A. (April, 1911).

Halkes, T. C., The Limes, 141, Monks Road, Lincoln. (July, 1916).

Hamilton, H. V., The Rest on the Hill-side, Hythe, Kent. (April, 1916).

Hansson, Mrs. Vera Hirst, The Low Hall, Killinghall, Harrogate. (January, 1918).

Harbord, Miss M. L., Lorton Park House, Lorton, Cockermouth. (April, 1916).

Harcourt, The Rt. Hon. Lewis, P.C., 14, Berkeley Square, London, W. (April, 1914).

Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 17-19, Old Court House Street, Calcutta, India, (October, 1907).

Harris, Chas., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, N.E. (April, 1910).

Hartley, Mrs. E. A., Lynchfield, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton. (September, 1907).

Harvey, P. T., 55, St. Albans Road, Seven Kings, Essex. (June, 1915).

Hawke, The Hon. M. C., c/o Miss B. Harrison, Manor House, Otton, Tadcaster. (November, 1902).

Hawkins, J. E., Belvedere, Streetley Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield. (April, 1915).

Hawkins, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Orig. Mem.).

Hebb, T., Brooklea, The Downs, Luton. (August, 1913).

Henderson, Mrs., W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (November, 1908).

Henderson, J. Alex, Dormant. (August, 1913).

Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. (March 1907).

Herbert, Lieut. Edward Greville, 60 Squadron, R.F.C., B.E.F., France, and Hemingford Abbotts, St. Ives, Hants. (January, 1915).

Hewitt, F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, Grimsby. (April, 1909).

Hincks, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton, Somerset. (December, 1904)

Hodgkin, Mrs., Dormant. (February, 1908).

Hogg, The Hon. Norah, 53, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2. (March, 1917).

Holden, Ralph, A., F.Z.S., 5, St. John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C. and Harpenden, Herts. (July, 1911).

Hollins, Mrs., The Aviaries Coppice Drive, Harrogate. (February, 1915)

Hooper, Miss G. M., Dormant. (May, 1903).

Hopkinson, Emilus, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon, Bathhurst, Gambia, West Africa (October, 1901).

Horne, A., "Boun-na-Coille," Murtle, Aberdeen. (August, 1917).

Horton, Miss M., Mascalls, Brentwood, Essex. (November, 1915).

Houfton, Miss K., Dormant. (April, 1914).

Houlton, Charles, Dormant. (November, 1901).

Howe, Frank, 54, Thomas Street, Wellingborough. (February, 1902).

Hubbard, Mrs. D. L., Dormant. (January, 1905).

Hume, James, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

Humphreys, Russell, Present address unknown. (July, 1902).

Hyde, Walter, Kempton Park, Sunbury-on-Thames. (June, 1915).

Isaac, Chas., Brockley House, Slough. (March, 1911).

Jardine, J., Castle Inilk, Lockerbie, N.B. (August, 1913).

Jeakins, A. E., Winscottie, Simla, India. (April, 1916).

Jenks, H., Dormant. (August, 1913).

Jersey, The Countess of, Middleton Park, Bicester. (November, 1912).

Johnson, Miss L. Sturton, Orotava House, Ore, Hastings. (September, 1910).
Johnson, Major, F., Melrose, Wilbury Road, Hove, Brighton. (August, 1911).
Jones, W. Yarworth, Villa d' Arno, Kingston-on-Thames. (August, 1915).
Jordan, W., Hill House, Palmer's Green, London, N. (April, 1916).

Kennedy, Capt. G., c/o Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).
Kenworthy, J. M., Address Unknown. (June, 1909).
Kewley, Mrs. M. A., Batts' Hotel, Dover Street, London, W.1. (September 1910).
King, Frank, Dormant. (March, 1909).
King, H. T., Dormant. (April, 1914).
1914).
Kite, E. Bagshot, Haines Hill House, Taunton. (February, 1912).
Knobel, Miss E. Maud, 32, Tavistock Square, London. W.C. (December, 1911).
Komyakoff, Alexis, Novinsky, Boulevard, 109, Moscow, Russia. (December, 1912).

Lamb, E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Malden, Surrey. (May, 1906).
Leach, C. F., Vale Lodge, Leatherhead. (July, 1914).
Legh de Legh, Dr. H., Redcar, Yorks. (April, 1911).
Lilford, The Lord, Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northants. (January, 1914).
Longden, Mrs. D. A. S., Dormant. (February, 1914).
Longdon, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (February, 1909).
Lovell-Keays, Capt. L. F., R.A.M.C., Endsleigh, East Hoathly, Halland. (March, 1913).
Low, G. E., 14, Royal Terrace East, Kingstown. (May, 1914).
Lowe, A. J. C., Present address unknown, (January, 1912).
Lucas, Miss Emma, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex. (September, 1913).
Lucas, N. S., M.B., F.Z.S., 19, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W (January, 1914).
Lynam, C. C., M.A., Bardswell Road, Oxford. (September, 1913).
Lythgoe, G. W. F., Dormant.

McCullough, J., Dormant. (January, 1914).
McDonagh, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., L.L. S., 4, Wimpole St., London, W. (January, 1903).
McDonald, D. D., Atholl Arms Hotel, Blair Atholl, N.B. (October, 1915).
Mackness, Mrs. N. Cypress Road, Church End, Finchley, N. (June, 1916).
Macready, F. W., 39, George Street, Stranraer. (July, 1916).
Malden, Viscountess Eveline, Great Bookham, Leatherhead. (August, 1909)
Mallett, E. A., M.A., Great Wishford, Salisbury. (September, 1911).
Mannering, R., Knoll Cottage, Noah Hill, Essex. (February, 1912).

Mappin, Stanley, 12, Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London, S.W. (February, 1911).
Marmont, W. B., The Firs, Amberly, Stroud, Glos. (October, 1908).
Marsden, J., F.Z.S., Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate. (March, 1914).
Mason, D., The Maisonette, Broadstairs. (April, 1914).
Master, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (November, 1903).
Maxwell-Jackson, Miss M., Cowhill, Rutland Road, Harrogate. (January, 1913).
Maxwell, C. T., 1, Shardcroft Aven, Herne Hill, S.E. (December, 1908).
Meadows, J. C. W., 19, Cardiff Road, Luton. (February, 1908).
Meakin, H., Dormant. (January, 1904).
Miller, Mrs. K. Leslie, Dormant. (January, 1903).
Millsum, O., The Firs, Westwood, Margate. (July, 1907).
Minchin, Mr., Dormant. (July, 1914).
Mitchell, H., 6a, Brunswick Terrace, Hove, Sussex. (September, 1903).
Money, Sir L. G. Chiozza, M.P., The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, London, N. (October, 1910).
Montague, G. R., 63, Croxted Road, Dulwich, S.E. (February, 1909).
Montgomery, W. O., c/o. Mrs. Hulse, Alexandra Road, Hornsea, Hull. (January, 1913).
Morrison, The Hon. Mrs. McLaren, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James' Park, London, S.W. (November, 1906).
Mortimer, Mrs. Wigmore, Holmwood, Dorking. (Orig. Mem.).
Mundy, Miss Sybil, Shipley Hall, Derby. (August, 1911).
Murton Marshall, Osborne Villas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (August, 1913).

Naylor, Mrs. F. M., "Vermont," Grappenhall, Warrington. (October, 1915)
Nelson, Mrs. L., The Wych, Sandbanks, Parkstone, Dorset. (September, 1916).
Newley, R. A., Dormant. (December, 1902).
Newman, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

Oakey, W., The Anglers' Inn, Pole Street, Preston. (Orig. Mem.).
Oberholser, Harry C., 1,444, Fairmount Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (December, 1903).
O'Donnell, O., Hyntle Place, Hintlesham, Ipswich. (August, 1912).
O'Reilly Nicholas, S., 144, Eastern Road, Kent Town, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.).
Ormsby, Miss E., The Cottage, Silver Field, Harrogate. (June, 1917).
Onslow, The Countess of, Dormant. (April, 1913).

Page, W. T., F.Z.S. (*Hon. Editor*), Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey. (May, 1905).

Paget, Miss, 39, Berkley Square, London, W.,1. (March, 1917).

Painter, V. Kenyon, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (November, 1910).

Parminter, Miss B. S. P., Didgemere Hall, Roydon, Essex. (December, 1916).

Paterson, Rev. J., Mapletoft, The Parsonage, Srinigar, Kashmir, India. (November, 1908).

Pauwels, Robert, E., (September, 1909).

Pelley, Henry Le, L.C. & M. Bank, Guernsey. (October, 1916).

Percival, W. G., Nanga, Chania Bridge, British East Africa. (January 1915).

Perkins, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire. (February 1903).

Perreau, Mrs. G. A., Bakloh, Punjab, India. (September, 1916).

Perreau, Mrs. R. A. D., Treffgarne Hall, Treffgarne, Pembrokeshire. (September, 1908).

Perring, C. S. R., Dormant. (October, 1902).

Phair, H. J., Broad Street, Alresford. (January, 1912).

Phillips, E. R., 12, Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, Ireland. (September, 1915).

Pickard, H. K., 298, West End Lane, Kilburn, London, N.W. (October, 1901).

Pickles, W. H., Stonyhurst, Morecambe, Lancs. (May, 1904).

Pike, L. G., F.Z.S., King Barrow, Wareham. (December, 1910).

Pilkinton, Lady Kathleen, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (September, 1908).

Pithie, Miss D. E., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Hants. (rejoined, January, 1918).

Pollack, A. J., Loretto House, Heston, Bradford. (August, 1917).

Poltimore, Lady, Dormant. (August, 1911).

Pond, Mrs. T., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (November, 1902).

Pope, Mrs., Howden, Tiverton, Devon. (February, 1914).

Powell, Miss M. M., Hawthorn House, Oakhill Park, Old Swan, Liverpool. (May, 1914).

Puck, Otto, Dormant. (May, 1912).

Pullar, Lawrence, H. F., F.Z.S., Dunbarnie Cottage, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. (October, 1913).

Quincey R. de Quincey, Inglewood, Chislehurst, Kent. (August, 1910).

Rathborne, H. B., Dreenan, Letter, Co. Fermanagh. (November, 1915).

Rattigan, G. E., Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W. (March, 1909).

Raven, W. H., 239, Derby Road, Nottingham. (October, 1909).

Raynor, Rev. G. H., M.A., Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex. (December, 1909).

Reeve, Capt. J. S., F.Z.S., Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey. (March, 1908).

Restall, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (November, 1903).

Rice, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie. (July, 1902).

Robbins, H., 37, New Oxford Street, London, W. (October, 1908).

Robson, J., 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E. (December, 1909).

Rogers, W. T., 21, Priory Villas, New Road, Brentwood. (October, 1907).

Rogerson, Mrs. Fleurville, Cheltenham. (February, 1903).

Roth, Fred, G. R., Sherwood Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A. (November, 1908).

Rotherwell, James E., 153, Sewell Avenue, Brooklyn, Mass., U.S.A. (February, 1911).

Routh, Col. J. J., 2, Beechworth Villas, Cheltenham. (January, 1912).

Row, C. H., Dormant. (December, 1905).

Rumsey, Lacy, 23, Rua de Terpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (October, 1911).

Ryan, G. E., (Bar-at-law), 28, Cleveland Square, Hyde Park, London, W..2. (November, 1913).

Samuelson, Lady, Hatchford Park, Cobham, Surrey. (July, 1916).

Schuyl, D. G., 12, Toe-Haringylist, Rotterdam, Holland. (January, 1914).

Scott, Lieut. B. Hamilton, Hamildean, Ipswich. (July, 1910).

Scott, A. H., Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants. (October, 1915).

Scott, J. Easton, M.B., Bifrons, Albany Road, Fleet, Hants. (March 1908).

Scott, Mrs. J. Easton, Bifrons, Albany Road, Fleet, Hants. (March, 1908).

Scott-Miller, R., Greenoak Hill, Broomhouse, Glasgow. (May, 1913).

Sebag-Montefiore, Mrs. East Cliffe Lodge, Ramsgate. (May, 1914).

Sherlock, Rev. W. J. R., Dormant. (January, 1916).

Shipton, A. J., 71, Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S.W. (April, 1913).

Sich, H. L., Corney House, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London, W. (June 1908)

Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire. (February, 1908).

Sills, Arthur, 260, Loughborough Road, Leicester. (January, 1911).

Simpson, R. E., 1, Highthorne Grove, Ridge Road, Armley, Leeds. (December, 1907).

Slade, G. J., 34, Milton Road, Fitzhugh, Southampton. (February, 1915).

Smith-Ryland, Mrs., Barford Hill, Warwick. (April, 1909).

Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal. (January, 1910).

Smyth, Miss Alfreda, Priory House, Priory Road, Kew Gardens, Surrey. (January, 1911).

Snarey, H., 21, Leamington Road, Blackburn. (March, 1911).

Soames, Rev. H. A., M.A., F.L.S., Dormant (Rejoined, January, 1914)

Somers, Lieut. F. W., A.V.C., T.F., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (January, 1907).

Southcombe, S. L. Highlands, Ash, Martock, Somerset. (September, 1910).

Speaker, Mrs. Alice, Gifford Lodge, Twickenham. (April, 1915).

Sprankling, E., Dormant. (February, 1908).

Sprawson, Capt. I. C., R.A.M.C., 68, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London, N. (October, 1913).

Sproston, Mrs., The Elm House, Nantwich. (January, 1911).

Steavenson, Mrs. Paget, Dormant. (January, 1915).

(January, 1915).

Steed, B., Dormant. (May, 1914).

Steinschen, W. F., The Bungalow, Contancheý, Guernsey. (February, 1914)

Stephens, A. J., 22, Coventry Road, Ilford. (February, 1914).

Stewart, B. T., Glenhurst, The Crosspaths, Radlett, Herts. (February, 1914)

Storey, Mrs. A., Summer Hill, Tarporley, Cheshire. (November, 1912).

Stott, A. E., 15, East Parade, Leeds. (January, 1915).

Street, E., The Poplars, Oatwoods, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909)

Strickland, E. A., 16, Alma Road, Windsor. (May, 1912).

Strong, Herbert, Redlands, Chislehurst Road, Bickley. (April, 1913).

Suggitt, R., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (December, 1903).

Suggitt, W. E., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (January, 1915).

Sutcliffe, Albert, Fairholme, Welholme Road, Grimsby. (May, 1907).

Swayne, Henry, A., 29, Percy Place, Dublin. (January, 1913).

Swaysland, W., Dormant. (Original Member).

Sykes, J., 16, Shorthope Street, Musselburgh. (January, 1912).

Taintegines, Baronne le, Clement de, Cleveland Minehead, Somerset. (August, 1913).

Tavistock, The Marquis of, 10, Hanover Square, London. W. (January, 1913).

Temple, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Windsor. (December, 1908).

Teschemaker, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth. (March, 1907).

Thomasset, B. C., F.Z.S., The Manor House, Ashmansworth, Newbury. (July, 1912).

Thompson, M., 4, William Street, Roslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand. (June, 1911).

Thorburn, Miss C. W., 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool. (March, 1910).

Thwaites, Dr. Gilbert, B., 94, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton. (May, 1910).

Tidey, J. W., Dormant. (January, 1912).

Tilley, G. D., F. New York; Z.S., Darien, Connecticut, U.S.A. (January, 1913)

Tomassi Baldelli, La Countessa, G., 4, Via Silvio, Pelico, Florence, Italy. (December, 1901).

Tomlinson, Malcolm, R., Shepherd's House, Inveresk, Midlothian. (April, 1913).

Tossizza, Baron M., 15, Rue de Lubeck, Paris, France. (March, 1916).

Townsend, S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Original Member).

Tracy, Mrs. A. L., Halsham, Shaldon, Teignmouth. (February, 1914).

Travers, Mrs. Johnson, Fern Hill, Clonakilty, co. Cork. (December, 1903).

Travis, Mrs., Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge. (January, 1911).

Turner, Herbert, J., Tremadoc, Keyberry Road, Newton Abbott. (February, 1915).

Turner-Turner, Mrs., Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (November, 1910).

Urwick, D. R., St. Cross Mill, Winchester. (March, 1913).

Vale, Lewis, 8, Broadway, Woodford, London, N.E. (May, 1913).

Valentine, E., 7, Highfield, Workington. (December, 1911).

Verstranten, Mons., Augusta House, Belle Vue Road, Ramsgate. (April, 1916).

Waddell, Miss E. G. R. Peddie, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (February, 1909).

Wade, L. M., Oakhill Road, Ashstead, Surrey. (September, 1913).

Wait, Miss L .M., St. A., 12, Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, London, S.W. (December, 1907).

Walker, Carr, Tyrie, West Park, Headingley, Leeds. (March, 1916).

Wallace, Norman H., Ard Brugh, Dalkey, Co. Dublin. (June, 1917).

Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset, Greenmount, Newcastle, co. Down. (October, 1905).

Wardale, H., Dormant. (May, 1903).

Watson, S., 37, Tithebarn Street, Preston. (September, 1910).

Watts, Rudolph, Dormant. (November, 1906).

Webb, Miss Katharine, Dormant. (July, 1909).

Wedge, E., Kingscote, Trinity Road, Wood Green, London, N. (February, 1915).

Weir, J. Douglas Cottage, Upper Ashley, New Milton, Hants. (December, 1912).

Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead, Somerset. (September, 1907).

Wethey, Mrs. R. E., Lehden, Coatham, Redcar. (July, 1911).

Whistler, Hugh, I. P., c/o. Mrs. Whistler, Caldea House, Battle, Sussex. (January, 1913).

White, A. I., Gleshire, Barroby Road, Grantham. (November, 1916).

Whitley, H., Primley Hill, Paignton, S. Devon. (January, 1916).

Willford, Henry, (*Hon. Photographer*), Uplands View, Haven Street, Ryde (July, 1908).

Williams, Sidney, F.Z.S., (*Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary*), "Oakleigh," 110, Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N.13. (October, 1910)

Williams, Mrs. C. H., Emanuel Vicarage, Exeter. (January, 1911).

Williamson, T. F. M., 604, Prospect Avenue, South Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (August, 1917).

Wilson, Miss F. M., 35, Emanuel Avenue, Acton, Middlesex. (March, 1906)

Wilson, T. N., M.A., Harrow Lodge, Bransgore, Christchurch. (January, 1902).

Winchilsea and Nottingham, The Countess of, Haverholme Priory, Sleaford. (June, 1903).

Windybank, L. A., "Letchmere," 216, Richmond Road, Kingston-on-Thames (June, 1916).

Windham, Lady E., Soham House, Newmarket. (July, 1908).

Wimble, Chas., Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham. (December, 1909)

Wood, L. W., Dormant. (April, 1911).

Woodward, Kenneth, N., 1, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1915).

Workman, W. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Lismore, Windsor, Belfast. (June, 1912).

Wright, G. B., c/o. G. Heaton, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham. (June, 1908).

Wright, H., Newcombe, LL.B., Dormant. (January, 1911).

Wrottesley, The Hon. Walter, B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Staplecross, Hawkhurst (December, 1902).

Yealland, James, Binstead, Ryde. (September, 1909).

Young, Miss Constance, Thornhill, Alnwick. (October, 1911).

Young, Rev. H. W., Stone Vicarage, Aylesbury, Bucks. (April, 1917).

Yule, Lady, Hanstead House, Bricket Wood, Herts. (January, 1914).

Zoological Society, The New York, 185th Street and Southern Boulevard, New York, U.S.A. (March, 1917).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly informed of any errors in the above List.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS: Once more, at the commencement of another volume, we urge *all* to make an effort to propose at least one new member during the year—there are still many bird-keepers and bird-lovers, who neither know of our Society nor its Journal, and it is impossible for your officers to reach more than an infinitesimal part of them—we earnestly urge you to make BIRD NOTES and The Foreign Bird Club known to every one in your locality, who is in any way interested in birds or aviculture, and so assist in increasing our usefulness and filling the gaps in our roll, caused by those who have fallen in this terrible war.

THE ILLUSTRATION FUND: Owing to so many of our members having been called up and consequently compelled to remain dormant for a time, our income, never adequate for our needs, is still further reduced; more, there has quite recently been a still further increase in the price of blocks, etc., and we urge *all* to do their utmost to send some donation, however small, to enable us, *in some measure*, to retain this feature in our Journal and to reduce our deficit. Moreover, we desire to arrange that those who have had to give up good positions to serve in the Forces, and must be dormant, should receive the Journal free while thus serving; but this must entirely depend upon your response to the above fund.

CORRESPONDENCE: Owing to war work the Hon. Secretary is quite unable to acknowledge communications and remittances as promptly as usual, but all receipts, etc. will be sent out with as little delay as possible. For the same reason, will new members kindly accept receipt of BIRD NOTES as notification that they have been duly elected? This will help to make the secretarial duties as light as possible.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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Deficit and Illustration Funds.

Owing to the exceptional times, increase in cost of paper, blocks, labour, etc., these two funds greatly need all the help members can give them during the present year. The Committee gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Barnaby, Miss	0	5	0
Bruce, Miss A.	0	10	0
Carr, F. J.	1	0	0
Currie, J.	0	2	6
Gorringe, Rev. R. E. P.	0	10	0
Harbord, Miss M. L.	0	11	0
Hewitt, T.	0	11	0
Leach, C. F.	0	10	0
Miller, R. Scott	0	10	0
Mundy, Miss S.	2	0	0
Sich, H. L.	0	10	0
Young, Miss	0	10	0

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Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. V. Hirst Hasson, The Low Hall, Killinghall, Harrogate. *By J. W. Marsden.*

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The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Pair Californian Quail, 15s; hens, Orange Bishop, 3s., Saffron Finch, 3s. 6d. WANTED: Hen Cuban Finch and pair Rufous-tailed Grassfinches—R. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

WANTED: Breeding pair of Cockateels, and two Yellow Budgerigar hens, or would exchange Yorkshire Canaries for same—Mrs. Mackness, 22, Cyprus Road, Finchley, N.3.

WANTED: About 80 yards ½in. mesh wire netting—A. Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants.

WANTED: Cock Leadbeater's Cockatoo, also hens Crimson-wing and Barnard's Parrakeets—C. c/o Editor, Bird Notes, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Really good Roller Canary, cock, low, sweet song, young bird preferred. Cash or exchange—J. H. Henstock, Avian Press, Ashbourne.

DR. ICK-HEWINS, of Manaia, Taranaki, New Zealand, would be glad to hear of second-hand Vols. of BIRD NOTES, or other illustrated Books on Birds for sale at a reasonable price.

The Foreign Bird Club.

(Continued from page 1).

Magazine Committee:

Dr. M. Amsler	Captain L. Lovell-Keays, M.B., R.A.M.C., F.Z.S.
W. Shore Baily	Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh
Lt. W. A. Bainbridge, A.S.C.	Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.
Capt. Phillip Gosse, M.D., M.B.O.U. R.A.M.C.	Dr. J. Easton Scott
H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.	Ser.-Maj. R. Suggitt
Dr. N. S. Lucas, R.A.M.C.	H. Willford

Show Committee:

Lt. W. A. Bainbridge, A.S.C.	The Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke
Lady Kathleen Pilkington	Stanley M. Townsend, *(Hon. Sec.)*

Social Committee:

Mrs. C. Anningson	W. Bamford
Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke	W. T. Rogers *(Hon. Sec.)*
Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley	Sc.-Lt. A. Sutcliffe
W. R. Temple	

Awards Committee:

Hon. W. B. Wrottesley, F. Z.S.	E. W. Chaplin
The Countess of Winchilsea	
H. Bright	Ser.-Maj. R. Suggitt *(Hon. Sec.)*

Auditor.	*Scrutineer.*
C. F. Crow.	E. E. Bentley.

Rules.

1. The objects of "THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members in keeping and breeding all species of Birds, and the exhibiting of Foreign Birds and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d., and an annual subscription of 10s. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's subscription shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a Member of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member accordingly, *but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.*

3. New Members shall be proposed in writing by a Member of the Club; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the Candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two Members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more Members shall lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any Candidate, he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors.

4. Any member wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice *he shall be liable to the following year's subscription.*

5. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from the Members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Veterinary Surgeon, a Council of Twenty-four Members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Editor, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Veterinary Surgeon shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council.

Three Members of the Council shall retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election. The Editor, Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected trienially. The Council and Judges shall be elected in a manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council, immediately after their own election.

6. The election for the three annual vacancies on the Council, and the Judges, shall take place every year between the 15th November and the 5th December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the Members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each Member of the Club on or about the 15th of November a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each Member shall make a (×) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot, and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each Candidate, and send it one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any Member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the president shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any Member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again, shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual eection of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of Members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council; and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any Candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds, within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a Member of this Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between Members, when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between Members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days, the proposed alterations or additions shall be submitted to the votes of the Members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a Candidate at any Election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time other than the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to appoint any Member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

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Rules Governing Club's Patronage at Shows.

1. The patronage of the F.B.C. is given at all OPEN SHOWS, provided the following conditions are observed.

   (a) At least three classes must be provided for *FOREIGN BIRDS* (excluding local and members' classes, in which no bird competing for F.B.C. patronage may be shown).

   (b) The classification and name of the judge must be submitted by Show Secretaries, when applying for patronage.

   (c) Those societies obtaining patronage must print in the schedule that the section is under the patronage of the F.B.C.

   (d) That no alteration (amalgamation or cancellation) of classes must be made, or the judges changed without giving notice to he Hon. Show Secretary of the F.B.C., in which case the original patronage does not hold good.

2. All MEDALS are awarded to BEST BIRDS (but the Committee have the right to award extra medals for special purposes) and no silver medal is granted where less than six classes are provided.

3. Members of the F.B.C. *must* place F.B.C. after each entry on entry forms, and should request show secretaries to print these initials in their catalogues.

4. No Member can win more than two medals in a season, *i.e.*; one silver and one bronze, or more than one medal at the same show.

5. The London Silver Cup is offered for competition at all Shows under patronage in the London Postal District, where ten or more classes are given, and the Provincial Silver Cup at shows outside this area, for points gained throughout the season by nominated birds.

6. These Cups become the property of those who have won them three times (not necessarily in succession), and only three birds at each Show can be nominated, which is done by writing the word "CUP" after the entries on entry form. If members nominate more than three birds they will be disqualified for that show.

7. These conditions only hold good where Show Societies and Members observe the rules. Failure to conform annuls all offers, and the birds of a member whose subscription is unpaid at the time of making an entry are ineligible to compete.

8. Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 7 points; 2nd, 6 points; and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place, the member taking the most prize money to win.

9. Any item not herein provided for, may be dealt with at the discretion of the Show Committee.

Rules re Breeding Medals.

1. The F.B.C. Medal for Breeding a Species or Hybrid for the first time in captivity in Great Britain, will be awarded on the following conditions only:

(*a*) As detailed an account of the success as possible must be sent for publication in BIRD NOTES as soon as the young can fend for themselves.

(*b*) The Awards Committee, whose decision shall be final, to make the awards from the Secretary's data, and the published articles recording successes.

(*c*) The awards will be made, and the medals distributed at the close of each successive season, or as soon afterwards as the publication of said articles permit.

2. SPECIES: The young must be reared to be independent of their parents. the record is not eligible for the medal; except in the case of parasitic species.

3. HYBRIDS: For any cross not previously reared in captivity, between any two species—the domestic Canary as one of the parents alone being excepted. A cross between any two species is only once recognised, e.g., Parson Finch × Long-tailed Grassfinch, and Long-tailed Grassfinch × Parson Finch are reckoned as the same Hybrid for the purposes of this award, and whichever was secured first would hold the record. The eggs must be incubated and the young reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs, or the record will not be eligible for a medal.

Notices to Members.

New Members are requested to accept receipt of Bird Notes as notification that they have been duly elected, and remit their subsription and entrance fee to the Hon. Treasurer.

Wants: Copy for the Journal, new members, and donations to the Deficit and Illustration Funds. Members are pressingly requested to assist to their uttermost in each of these three important needs in these abnormal times.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds are in great need of all the support members can give them. The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Anonymous	0	5	0
Bright, H. E.	1	1	0

Above list is incomplete, omissions will be included in next issue.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Case, Mrs. A. M., Holmbury, Silverdale Road, Eastbourne, *By Mrs. Chatterton.*

Gregson, Mrs. C. B., c/o Messrs. Andrew Yule and Co., 8, Clive Row, Calcutta, *By E. W. Harper.*

New Members Elected.

Mrs. V. Hirst Hansson, The Low Hall, Killinghall, Harrogate.

Errata Re Roll.

" Hogg, Hon. Norah," should read, Hogg, Hon. Norah Mégarel.

" Malden, Vicountess," should read, Essex, Countess of

" Sprawson, Capt. I. C., R.A.M.C.," should read, Sprawson, Capt. E. C., M.C., R.A.M.C.

Perreau, Mrs. G. A., to Bakloh, Punjab, India.

Sprankling, E., to Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Acclimatised hen Grand Eclectus Parrot in perfect health and plumage, has reared five broods.—Miss M. Drummond, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire.

WANTED: Hens, Zebra and Fire Finches, to purchase or in exchange for cock Canaries, splendid songsters.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

WANTED: Cock Leadbeater's Cockatoo; also hens Barnard's and Crimson-wing Parrakeets.—Miss L. Clare, The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W.

WANTED: Hens: Green Cardinal, Black Tanager, and cock Cape Dove.—c/o Editor, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

List of Coloured Plates

which have appeared in BIRD NOTES, the Journal of the Club.

- Gold and Green Tanager
- Orange-flanked Parrakeet
- Vinaceous Firefinch
- Yellow Sparrow
- Three-coloured Tanager
- * Cornish Chough
- Indian Roller
- Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
- Black-backed Tanager
- * Golden-crowned Conure
- Senegal Parrot
- Sepoy Finch
- Waxwing
- Gouldian Finch
- Bronze Cuckoo
- Superb Tanager
- Haw-headed Parrot
- Group of Spermophila
- Green-billed Toucan
- Yellow-winged Sugarbird
- Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
- Colombian and Hooded Siskins
- * Mexican or Green Jay
- Black-cheeked Tanager
- Violet or Dusky Parrot
- Painted Finch
- Great or Giant Barbet
- Cuban Trogan
- Rainbow Bunting
- Black-winged Lory
- Flame-breaste Flower-pecker
- A Beautiful Aviary
- * Stellas' Lories
- Blue-billed Weaver
- Black and Yellow Creeper
- Uvæan Parrakeet
- Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
- Blue Budgerigar
- Loo Choo Robin
- Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Flycatcher
- * Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
- Crimson-ringed Whydah
- Indian White-eyes
- Fairy Blue-Bird
- Blue-rumped Parrot
- Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
- Red-breasted Flycatcher
- Large Niltava
- Red-spotted Conure
- Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
- Blue and Black, and Vieillot's Tanagers
- Jerdon's Green Bulbul
- Malabar, and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls
- Red-billed Blue-Pie
- Red-tailed Muila
- Brown-backed Robin
- Sunbirds

Price 1/6 each, except those marked * which are 1/- each. Postage 1d. extra.

Any of the above, mostly hand-coloured, Plates can be obtained from the Publisher,

J. H. HENSTOCK,
THE AVIAN PRESS, ASHBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE.

MARCH, 1918.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

PLATES IN LAST ISSUE: We regret that, with one exception, the names of the photographer were not included by the printer—they were as follows:

Green Cardinals—*photo H. Willford.*
Peaceful Doves—*photo E. O. Page.*
Diamond Dove on Nest—*photo H. Willford.*

MEMEBERS' SALES AND EXCHANGES AND PERPETUATION OF SPECIES IN OUR AVIARIES: We would draw attention again to the scheme brought forward by the Marquis of Tavistock on pages 45--8 of last issue. If any members having pairs which may reasonably expect to breed this season, from the fact that young were reared in 1917, will send in their names and a list of such species in accordance with the above, a tentative list, at any rate, could appear in April B.N. We trust there will be a good response, as, some such scheme should be a boon to members generally.

THE MAGAZINE: The Editor solicits copy from members, so that the contents of the Club Journal may be varied and of practical interest to all on avicultural topics of the moment. We are disappointed that our Correspondence pages are not more extensively used—these are open to members to discuss aviculture generally, and it would add to our interest if avicultural doubts, difficulties, successes, failures, etc., were freely discussed here.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Errata re Roll.

The following entries in roll *should be* as under and not as printed:
Miss L. Nelson (not Mrs. as in list).
Mrs. A. L. Tracy, Halsham, Teignmouth, S. Devon.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Lt. W. A. Bainbridge to Keyneston Manor, Tarrant Keyneston, Blandford.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Harrison, T. O., 127, Hastings Road, Sunderland, *By S. Williams.*

Goytino, J. P., 820, Summit Avenue, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A., *By L. F. M. Williamson.*

Ayton, Edward, 71, Grosvenor Street, London, W.,1., *By the Hon. Editor.*

Snape, Major A. E., R.F.C., Malvern, Churchfields, Salisbury, *By S. Williams.*

New Members Elected.

Case, Mrs. A. M. Holmbury, Silverdale Road, Eastbourne.

Gregson, Mrs. C.B., c/o Messrs. Andrew Yule and Co., 8, Clive Row, Calcutta, India.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds urgently need all the help members can give them. The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Barnaby, Miss	0	5	0
Calvocoressi, P. J.	2	2	0
Christie, Mrs. G.	1	1	0
Harper, E. W.	0	10	0
Hawkins, J. E.	0	10	0
Hebb, T.	0	10	0
Marsden, J. W.	0	10	0
Rothwell, J. ...	0	10	0
Shore Baily, W.	1	0	0
Townsend, S.	0	10	0

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

WANTED: Hens: Zebra and Fire Finches, to purchase or in exchange for cock Canaries, splendid songsters.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

WANTED: Cock Leadbeater's Cockatoo; also hens Barnard's and Crimson-wing Parrakeets.—Miss L. Clare, The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W.

WANTED: Hens: Green Cardinal, Black Tanager, and Zebra Finches. Cocks: Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, and Cape Dove.—c/o Editor, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Pairs of Indian White-eyes, and Cirl Buntings; also a hen Blue Tanager *(Tanagra episcopus)*. FOR SALE: Finger-tame Senegal Parrot, excellent pet, £5.—Capt. J. S. Reeve, Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey.

WANTED: Hen Rosella, also hen Madagascar Lovebird.—J. E. Hawkins, "Belvedere," Streetly Lane, Sutton Coldfield.

FOR SALE: Bank Mynah, acclimatised and in good feather, out of doors all winter, 42s.; cock Zebra Finches, 10s. each.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Pair of Adult Redrump Parrakeets from outdoor unheated Aviary, perfect plumage and condition, £4, or offers—Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge, Worcs.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

New Members are requested to accept receipt of Bird Notes as notification that they have been duly elected, and remit subscription and entrance fee to the Hon. Treasurer—address, *vide* page iii of cover.

Wants: Copy for the Journal, NEW MEMBERS, and DONATIONS to the Illustration and Deficit Funds. Members are pressingly requested to assist to their uttermost, in each of these three important needs, in these abnormal times.

Unpaid Subscriptions: Will those members whose subscriptions are in arrears (*due 1st of January of each year in advance*), kindly treat this notice as a postal application for same? This will save needless expense to the Club and also relieve the pressure upon the Hon. Secretary's time.

Breeding Medals: The following have been awarded and we congratulate the respective members upon their success.

Green Fruit-Pigeon *(Sphenocercus sphenurus)*, W. Shore Baily.

White-cheeked Finch-Lark *(Pyrrhulauda leucotis)*, W. Shore Baily.

Hybrid Cockatoo *(Cacatua roseicapilla × C. galerita)*, Mrs. M. A. Lee.

Hybrid Firefinch *(Lagonosticta senegala × L. rufopicta)*, Miss E. Lucas.

Hybrid Dove *(Turtur risorius × T. senegalensis)*, H. Whitley.

Hybrid Mannikin *(Munia castaneithorax × Aidemosyne malabarica)*, H. Bright.

Hybrid Mannikin *(Amauresthes fringilloides × Aidemosyne cantans)*, H. Bright.

The above medals have been ordered and will be distributed as soon as received from the manufacturer.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

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	£	s.	d.
Ebrill, W.	0	5	0
Member, A. (postage a/c)	4	4	0
Suggitt, R.	0	10	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

Anson, E. R., The Manor House, Aldingbourne, Chichester. *By the Hon. Editor.*

H. G., The Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park, near Basingstoke, Hants, *By W. R. Temple.*

Dickinson, Mrs. W. G., Welbeck Estate, Lovedale, Nilgiris, S. India, *By the Hon. Editor.*

New Members Elected.

Harrison, T. O., 127, Hastings Road, Sunderland.
Goytino, J. R., 820, Summit Avenue, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
Ayton, Edward, 71, Grosvenor Street, London, W., 1.
Snape, Major A. E., R.F.A., Malvern, Churchfields, Salisbury.

Errata re Roll.

Calvocaressi, P. J., Holme Hay, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool
should read—
Calvocoressi, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Rattigan, G. E., to " Lanarkslea," Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.
Sills, A., to " Eymore," Arley, via Bewdley, Worcs.
Batty, Lieut. W. R., to 11, Park Road, Southport.

Rgeister of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.

Stanley Parrakeets.

BAILY, W. SHORE, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures
Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves

BRIGHT, H. E., Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

Cockateels
Budgerigars
Feach-faced Lovebirds
Pope Cardinals
Long-tailed Grassfinches
Diamond Finches
Green Cardinals
Doves, Violet
,, Diamond
,, Red Mountain
Pigeons, Geoffry's
Zebra Finches

BURGESS, MRS. M., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.

Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller Canaries.

CHATTERTON, MRS. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N., 8.
Cockateels
Budgerigars

◆

CALVOCORESSI, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

◆

MARSDEN, J., F.Z.S., Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

◆

SMITH, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

It must be noticed, this is the commencement of the above register, and that with the exception of the first named, these Club Breeders may not have adult stock to dispose of, and that their supplies will mainly depend upon the season's successes; but members may make prospective bookings with them. All have pairs which have bred during last and other seasons, and thus may reasonably be expected to do so again. It is hoped many other members will register as Club Breeders. A descriptive catalogue will be issued as early as possible.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements should be sent to the Hon. Editor by the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

WANTED: One hen, and possibly another couple, Gold-breasted Waxbills; also the same of Blue-breasted Waxbills.—P. Calvocoressi, Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.

WANTED: One hen Yellow Budgerigar, and two cock Green Budgerigars for breeding in outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Montefiore, East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.

WANTED: Hen Blossom-headed Parrakeet, and a B. H. Gouldian Finch cock. FOR SALE: Hen Cockateel.—Bright, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

WANTED: A cock Cockateel, adult bird; also breeding hen Yellow Budgerigar.—Mrs. Wethey, Lehden, Redcar.

WANTED: Pairs, Green or Yellow Budgerigars; Diamond Doves; Red-rump Parrakeets.—Turner, Tremadoc, Newton Abbot.

FOR SALE: Breeding pair of clear Yellow Budgerigars, also a cock Zebra Finch.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N. E.

WANTED: Hens, several Zebra Finches, Black Tanager, and Green Cardinal; also cock Cape Dove. FOR SALE: Several cock Zebra Finches.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES

which have appeared in BIRD NOTES, the Journal of the Club.

- Gold and Green Tanager
- Orange-flanked Parrakeet
- Vinaceous Firefinch
- Yellow Sparrow
- Three-coloured Tanager
- * Cornish Chough
- Indian Roller
- Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
- Black-backed Tanager
- * Golden-crowned Conure
- Senegal Parrot
- Sepoy Finch
- Waxwing
- Gouldian Finch
- Bronze Cuckoo
- Superb Tanager
- Haw-headed Parrot
- Group of Spermophila
- Green-billed Toucan
- Yellow-winged Sugarbird
- Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
- Colombian and Hooded Siskins
- * Mexican or Green Jay
- Black-cheeked Tanager
- Violet or Dusky Parrot
- Painted Finch
- Great or Giant Barbet
- Cuban Trogan
- Rainbow Bunting
- Black-winged Lory
- Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
- A Beautiful Aviary
- * Stellas' Lories
- Blue-billed Weaver
- Black and Yellow Creeper
- Uvæan Parrakeet
- Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
- Blue Budgerigar
- Loo Choo Robin
- Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Fly-catcher
- * Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
- Crimson-ringed Whydah
- Indian White-eyes
- Fairy Blue-Bird
- Blue-rumped Parrot
- Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
- Red-breasted Flycatcher
- Large Niltava
- Red-spotted Conure
- Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
- Blue and Black, and Vieillot's Tanagers
- Jerdon's Green Bulbul
- Malabar, and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls
- Red-billed Blue-Pie
- Red-tailed Muila
- Brown-backed Robin
- Sunbirds

Price 1/6 each, except those marked * which are 1/- each. Postage 1d. extra.

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J. H. HENSTOCK, The Avian Press, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

MAY, 1918.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

IMPORTANT: In these days of paper shortage we cannot repeat notices month by month. We therefore ask members to re-read and carefully note the Notices in last issue *re* Unpaid Subscriptions; Copy for Journal; Illustration Fund, etc., all of which are highly important, especially so in view of the increased postal rates, which will shortly come into force.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: These *re* general enquiries, remittances, etc., will be dealt with as promptly as possible, but it is *impossible to attend to them with pre-war time precision.*

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds are in great need of all the support members can give them. The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Chaplin, Lady	2	0	0
Henderson, Mrs. W. F.	0	11	0

◆

Obituary.

Miss L. B. Nelson, The Wych, Sandbanks, Parkstone, Dorset, deceased April, 1918.

◆

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Mrs. Naylor, to Alton House, Mersey Road, Aigburth, Liverpool.

New Members Elected.

Anson, E. R., The Manor House, Aldingbourne, Chichester.
H. G., The Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park, near Basingstoke, Hants.
Dickinson, Mrs. W. G., Welbeck Estate, Lovedale, Nilgiris, S. India.

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.
Stanley Parrakeets.

Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures
Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves

BRIGHT, H. E., Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

Cockateels
Budgerigars
Peach-faced Lovebirds
Pope Cardinals
Long-tailed Grassfinches
Diamond Finches
Green Cardinals
Doves, Violet
,, Diamond
,, Red Mountain
Pigeons, Geoffry's
Zebra Finches

BURGESS, MRS. M., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.
Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
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Finest Singing strain Roller Canaries.

CHATTERTON, MRS. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N., 8.
Cockateels
Budgerigars

CALVOCORESSI, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

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Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal.

Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

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Members' Rates: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements should be sent to the Hon. Editor by the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE. A good talking Lemon-crested Cockatoo, exceptional bird; also a Yellow-fronted Amazon, says a few words. Fuller particulars from Mrs. Yealland, Binstead, Isle of Wight.

FOR SALE: 2 hen Barbary Doves, 3s. each, or exchanges for a cock of any species, or would buy a cock.—Mrs. Cartwright, Hawthorns, Tickhill, Rotherham.

FOR SALE: Pair of Jendaya Parrakeets, acclimatised and in good condition, from outdoor aviary. WANTED: Hen Zebra Finch.—Hawkins, Belvedere, Streetly Lane, Sutton Coldfield.

WANTED: Pair Blossom-headed Parrakeets, also pair of Malabar Parrakeets, or would buy cock or hen of either species; also wanted Blue Budgerigars.—Hebb, Brooklea, Downs, Luton, Beds.

WANTED: Cock Gouldian Finch.—Bright, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

WANTED: Hen Budgerigar, or sell cock, which won 1st in open show.—Shipton, 71, Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S.W.

FOR SALE: Three fine "Palace" aviary cages.—Mrs. Nelson, The Wych, Sandbanks, Parkstone, Dorset.

WANTED: Pairs of brightly plumaged Seed-eaters, also cock Blue Tanager, must be acclimatised specimens.—Capt. J. S. Reeve, Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey.

WANTED: Light, clear Yellow Budgerigar hen.—J. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES.

which have appeared in BIRD NOTES, the Journal of the Club.

Gold and Green Tanager
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Three-coloured Tanager
* Cornish Chough
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
Black-backed Tanager
* Golden-crowned Conure
Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
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Painted Finch
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogan
Rainbow Bunting
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Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
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* Stellas' Lories
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
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Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
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Crimson-ringed Whydah
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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: The cost of production still increases, postal rates also have again advanced, and we must urge a larger number to respond to the appeal for donations to the Illustration and Deficit Funds; moreover in these days of reduced credit, *a strong effort should be made to clear off our deficit*, which unfortunately has been increased by a fairly large amount of unpaid subscriptions; doubtless some of this will be forthcoming when our surviving members return to civilian life again; but, we think in spite of "the times," we should each do our part, even to the point of sacrifice, to at once contribute our utmost to put an end for ever to this hindrance to the Club's efficiency and well-being. Again, so few think that any part in the club's work falls upon them; true, our thoughts have been much occupied with weightier things, but, we think without shirking in the least the call of Country and National Service, etc, some little thought can be given to the supply of copy for our Journal, and lightening the burden of our officers—*will those who have not yet paid their subscriptions kindly take this hint?* by doing a little to make a difficult task as little burdensome as possible,

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

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Stanley Parrakeets.

BAILY, W., SHORE, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

Rosella Parrakeets
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Pope Cardinals
Long-tailed Grassfinches
Diamond Finches

Green Cardinals
Doves, Violet
,, Diamond
,, Red Mountain
Pigeons, Geoffry's
Zebra Finches

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Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller Canaries.

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Calvocoressi, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
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Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

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Many-colour Parrakeets.

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Illustration & Deficit Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them, the smallest contribution will be thankfully received by the Hon. Treas. The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

			£	s.	d.
Chaplin, Lady	...	...	2	0	0
Chawner, Miss E,	...	...	0	10	0
Edmunds, W.	...	...	1	10	0
Henderson, Mrs.	...	...	0	11	0
White, A. I	...	...	0	5	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

W. A. Brackenbridge, 525 Orange Grove Avenue, South Passaden, California, U.S.A. By T. F. Williamson.

Dr. J. E. Sidgwick, 95 Lawsone Road, London, S. E., 15. By the Hon. Editor.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

W. E. Steinschen, to 1, Queens Road, Guernsey.

The Bird Market.

Members' Rates : Four words a penny ; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements should be sent to the Hon. Editor by the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE : 2 hen Barbary Doves, 3/- each, or exchanges or a cock of any species, or would buy a cock.—Mrs. Cartwright, Hawthorns, Tickhill. Rotherham.

WANTED : Hen Zebra Finch.—Hawkins, Belvedere, Streetly Lane, Sutton Coldfield.

WANTED : Pair Blossom-headed Parakeets, also pair of Malabar Parrakeets, or would buy cock or hen of either species ; also wanted Blue Budgerigars.—Hebb, Brooklea, Downs, Luton, Beds

FOR SALE : 3 fine "Palace" aviary cages.—Mrs. Nelson, The Wych, Sandbanks, Parkstone, Dorset.

WANTED : Light, clear Yellow Budgerigar hen —J. Marsden, Thornhurst. Tewit Park, Harrogate.

WANTED : Hen Yellow Budgerigar from outdoor aviary. FOR SALE : Cardinal.—Mrs. Wethey, Lahden, Redcar, Yorks.

FOR SALE : A few pairs of very fine, young Green Budgerigars, 15/6 per pair ; also young Yorkshire Canaries.—Mrs Mackness, 22 Cypress Road, Finchley, London, N., 3.

FOR SALE : 2 Breeding pairs African Ring-neck Parrakeets, £4 per pair WANTED : Hen Bourke's Parrakeet, to purchase or on loan for breeding.—Marquis of Tavistock, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.

FOR SALE : Handsome Goldfinch x Bullfinch Hybrid cock, 50s. ; Goldfinch x Redpoll hybrid cock, 30s.—E. Lamb, Alverstone, New Malden, Surrey.

WANTED : Genuine blue-bred hen Green Budgerigar.—Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Hitchin Vale, Taplow.

WANTED : pairs, White-eyes, Yellow-wing Sugarbirds, Cirl Buntings, hen Blue Tanager. FOR SALE : Perfect finger-tame Senegal Parrot, £4 10s. 0d.—Captain J. S. Reeve, Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey

FOR SALE : Finger tame St. Thomas' Conure, talks a little, a great pet £5. Pair of Severe Macaws, very tame, £10 : Tui Parakeets, £4 ; Red-headed Lovebirds, £4 ; Green Fruit Pigeons, £3; Green-winged Doves, £3 ; Bronze-winged Doves, £2 ; Masked Doves, £2 : Peaceful Doves, £1 ; Hybrid Necklace x Senegal Doves, £1 ; all out of doors and in fine condition.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES.

which have appeared in BIRD NOTES, the Journal of the Club.

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Orange-flanked Parrakeet
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Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
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Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
Haw-headed Parrot
Group of Spermophila
Green-billed Toucan
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Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
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Fairy Blue-Bird
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Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure
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Blue and Black, and Vieillot's Tanagers
Jerdon's Green Bulbul
Malabar, and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls
Red-billed Blue-Pie
Red-tailed Muila
Brown-backed Robin
Sunbirds

Price 1/6 each, except those marked * which are 1/- each.
Postage 1d. extra.

Any of the above, mostly hand-coloured, Plates can be obtained from the Publisher,

J. H. HENSTOCK, AVIAN PRESS, ASHBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Donations and Unpaid Subscriptions.—Donations are much needed to keep Club affairs in good order, to counteract the *still increasing* cost of producing Bird Notes and dormant members, and all are urged to do their utmost in this matter. We regret that at time of going to press no notices have been received from the Secretary—these will appear next month. It is pressingly urgent that all unpaid subscriptions should be remitted at once, and we ask that those in default will send same to the Hon. Sec. at once, and thus save the Club funds the cost of further postal notification.

The Magazine: The Hon. Editor needs copy on all topics of Aviculture; also notes of all species of birds in their native haunts.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

The Marquis of Tavistock, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.
Stanley Parrakeets.

◆

Baily, W., Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

- Rosella Parrakeets
- Stanley Parrakeets
- Conures
- Bronze-wing Doves
- Brush Bronze-wing Doves
- Necklace Doves
- Diamond Doves

◆

Bright, H. E., Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

- Cockateels
- Budgerigars
- Peach-faced Lovebirds
- Pope Cardinals
- Long-tailed Grassfinches
- Diamond Finches
- Green Cardinals
- Doves, Violet
- ,, Diamond
- ,, Red Mountain
- Pigeons, Geoffry's
- Zebra Finches

Burgess, Mrs. M., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.
Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller Canaries.

◆

Chatterton, Mrs. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N., 8.
Cockateels
Budgerigars

◆

Calvocoressi, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

◆

Marsden, J., F.Z.S., Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

◆

Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

It must be noticed, this is the commencement of the above register ,and that with the exception of the first named, these Club Breeders may not have adult stock to dispose of, and that their supplies will mainly depend upon the season's successes; but members may make prospective bookings with them. All have pairs which have bred during last and other seasons, and thus may reasonably be expected to do so again. It is hoped many other members will register as Club Breeders. A descriptive catalogue will be issued as early as possible.

◆

Illustration & Deficit Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them, the smallest contribution will be thankfully received by the Hon. Treas. The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :

	£	s.	d.
Sidgwick, Dr. J. E.	0	7	6

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

W. A. Brackenbridge, 525 Orange Grove Avenue, South Passaden, California, U.S.A.
Dr. J. E. Sidgwick, 95 Lawsone Road, London, S.E., 15.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements should be sent to the Hon. Editor by the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

WANTED: Hen Zebra Finch.—Hawkins, Belvedere, Streetly Lane, Sutton Coldfield.

FOR SALE: 3 fine "Palace" aviary cages.—Mrs. Nelson, The Wych, Sandbanks, Parkstone, Dorset.

WANTED: Light, clear Yellow Budgerigar hen.—J. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.

WANTED: Hen Yellow Budgerigar from outdoor aviary. FOR SALE: Cardinal. Mrs. Wethey, Lahden, Redcar, Yorks.

WANTED: Genuine blue-bred hen Green Budgerigar.—Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Hitchin Vale, Taplow.

WANTED: Pairs, White-eyes, Yellow-wing Sugarbirds, Cirl Buntings, hen Blue Tanager. FOR SALE: Perfect finger-tame Senegal Parrot, £4 10s. 0d.—Captain J. S. Reeve, Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: 3 young Rosellas, fine, strong, healthy birds, 35s. each; one, very fine, cock Red-rump, 35s.; one cock Pennant's, has reared young, 65s.; one, very fine, cock Crimson-wing, an extra fine bird, £7.—T. Hebb, Brooklea, The Downs, Luton, Beds

FOR SALE: Breeding pair Red-rumps, £5 5s.; 2 adults, cocks, Blue × Green Budgerigars; Champion bred Italian Greyhound pup bitch, golden-fawn, 4½ lbs. WANTED: Rare Parrakeets.—Miss L. Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

FOR SALE: A few lovely Bengalese, 20s. each; hen Vinaceous Firefinch, 30s.—Mrs. Galloway, Fernville, Fortis Green, East Finchley, London, N.

FOR SALE: 1 African Green Singing Finch, hen; 1 cock Zebra Finch.—Miss E. Ormsby, Silverfields, Harrogate.

FOR SALE: A cock Yellow Weaver, large, with black head, in finest plumage, from outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Storey, Summerhill, Tarporley, Cheshire.

FOR SALE: 4 adult Green, Blue-bred, Budgerigars; 1 hen Virginian Cardinal, has laid, £4 10s.; 1 cock Red-crested Cardinal, £4; 1 breeding pair Red-rumps, £5. EXCHANGE, or for the following: sale, or hens for cocks: 1 hen Long-tail Grassfinch; 1 hen Rosella, has laid eggs; stamp reply will oblige.—Mrs. Burgess, Kingsweir, 52 Clarendon Road, Redland Bristol.

WANTED: True pairs of any Weavers, particularly Orange and Madagascar Bishops. Good prices given for healthy acclimatised birds.—Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst, Basingstoke.

WANTED: Hen Pennant's Parrakeet; can any member sell me a good specimen in the hope of breeding?—O. Millsum, The Firs, Westwood, Margate.

WANTED: 2 hen Zebra Finches.—Major A. E. Snape, R.A.F., Malvern, Churchfields, Salisbury.

WANTED: To purchase a hen Zebra Finch, or would give an acclimatised cock Firefinch in exchange for same.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

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Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Three-coloured Tanager
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Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
Black-backed Tanager
* Golden-crowned Conure
Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
Haw-headed Parrot
Group of Spermophila
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugarbird
Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
* Mexican or Green Jay
Black-cheeked Tanager
Violet or Dusky Parrot
Painted Finch
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogan
Rainbow Bunting
Black-winged Lory
Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
A Beautiful Aviary
* Stellas' Lories
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Uvæan Parrakeet
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
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* Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
Crimson-ringed Whydah
Indian White-eyes
Fairy Blue-Bird
Blue-rumped Parrot
Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure
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AUGUST, 1918.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Correction.—The heading *Proposed for Election as Members,* in last issue was an error, it should have read NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

The Magazine: Copy is still needed to keep our contents varied and of general interest. Nesting Notes and attempts are of much interest, and if, in these war-times, we have no rarities much to write about, it is a good opportunity to tabulate and put on record as full data as possible concerning the better known species.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

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Brush Bronze-wing Doves
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Finest Singing strain Roller Canaries.

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Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* PITHIE, MISS D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth.
Zebra Finches.

* WETHEY, MRS. E. M., Lehden, Coatham, Redcar, Yorks.
Yellow Budgerigars.
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.
Cockateels.

* MONTEFIORE, MRS. H. SEBAG, West Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
Green Budgerigars.
Cockateels.

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Illustration & Deficit Funds.

These two funds need the *utmost* help members can give them. The Committee acknowledge with thanks the following donations :

	£	s.	d.
Garcke, Mrs.	0	5	0
Phair, J. H.	0	3	0
Sidebottom, Mrs.	0	5	0
Snape, Major	0	10	6
Snape, Major (Magazine postage)	0	1	6

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Herbert, E. G., to c/o Messrs. Cox and Co., R.A.F. Branch, 111, St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C., 2.

◆

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WANTED: To purchase a hen Zebra Finch, or would give an acclimatised cock Firefinch in exchange for same.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE: 4 Hand-reared Jays, feed from hand, in perfect condition, 10s each; 2 Canary × Green Singingfinch hybrids (cocks), 10s. each.—H. J. Phair, Alresford, Hants

FOR SALE: Very tame Lemon-crested Cockatoo, good talker, in splendid plumage, £5; Amazon Parrot, good plumage and a talker, £3 10s.; either sent on approval to members.—Apply Mrs. Yealland, Binstead, Isle of Wight.

FOR SALE: In one lot, 3 cock and 1 hen Cordon Blues; Golden-breasted Waxbill (cock); St. Helena Waxbill; Grey Waxbill; 1 pair Orange-cheek Waxbills; Firefinch (cock); Bib Finch; 1 pair Zebra Finches and 3 Black-headed Nuns.—Apply c/o Mrs. Bainbridge, Keyneston Manor, Tarrant, Keyneston, Blandford.

FOR SALE: About 40 birds, consisting of Paradise Whydah, Red-billed Weaver, Bronze-wing Mannikin, Cordon Bleus, Silverbill, Ribbon Finch, Avadavats, Zebra Finches, St. Helena Waxbills, Gold-breasted Waxbill, Orange-cheek Waxbill, Pink-cheek Grey Waxbills, Bib Finch, Green Singing Finch; all outdoor aviary, some aviary bred; also outdoor aviary, splendid condition, substantially built, in sections, easily re-erected, comprising shelter, covered flight, and open flight; measures 13 feet long, 6 to 7½ feet high, 3½ to 5½ feet deep; materials alone cost about £8 10s. in 1915. Price 30 the lot or near offer; or might separate. Preference given where delivery of birds taken by hand in London, E.C., or Seven Kings districts. Buyer's risk if sent by rail.—Particulars from Harvey, 55, St. Albans Road, Seven Kings, Essex.

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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Owing to extreme pressure upon the time of Editor and Secretary the Club Notices, Acknowledgements, etc, are unavoidably held over till next issue.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Mrs. Kewley, to Sedbergh House, Kew Green, Kew, London, S,W.
Mrs. A M. Cooke to, 5 Lancaster Road, Hampstead, London, N.W., 3.

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

* Indicates ability to supply as soon as young are old enough to be moved.

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Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller Canaries.

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Budgerigars, Blue x Green.

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Budgerigars

* Calvocoressi, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

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Many-colour Parrakeets.

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Zebra Finches.

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Yellow Budgerigars.
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.
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FOR SALE: Five pair Red-fronted, New Guinea Lories, very rare and very fine birds, £12.—T. Hebb, Brooklea, The Downs, Luton, Beds.

FOR SALE—2 Young hand-reared Bullfinches, 5s. each, or exchange for young hen Diamond Dove or offers.—Mrs. Cartwright, Hawthorns, Tickill, Rotherham.

FOR SALE: Tame Severe Macaw £4.; Red-faced Love-birds (cock) £2.: Tui Parrakeet £2.: Pairs: Rosell Parakeets 50s.; Bronze-wing Doves 50s.; Senegal-Necklaced Doves 20s.: and Peaceful Doves 30s. per pair.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury. Wilts.

FOR SALE: Budgerigars—pair adnlt Greens 30s., two pairs young (blue-bred) Greens 30s. per pair, two pairs young Yellows 25s. per pair, all out-door aviary bred.—Mrs. Mackness, 22 Cyprus Road, Finchley, London, N., 3.

FOR SALE; Young Green Budgerigars from blue-bred parents--out door aviary—fine large birds, perfect feather, 14s. 6d. each. July hatched, 10s. each or 18s. per pair.—Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Hitcham Vale, Taplow.

WANTED: Hen Avadavat.—Hon. Norah McGaul Hogg. 53 Lancaster Gate London, W., 2.

WANTED: Any copies of Avicultural Mag. (preferably unbound) prior to 1911 12); also wanted Hen Crimson-wing and other Parakeets—Miss Money. The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, Highgate, N.

WANTED: Cocks, King Parakeet and Violet-eared Waxbill. FOR SALE: 3 Adult Blue x Green Budgerigars, and one pair of Yellows! breeding cock Peach-faced Lovebird; champion bred Italian Greyhound bitch, year old, 4½ lbs—Miss Clare, The Hollies, Crombe Lane, Wimbledon,

FOR SALE: Pair Zebra Finches, 30s.; two odd hens 17s. 6d. each, bred from unrelated parents. WANTED: hens, Cuba Finch, and White-cheeked Finch-lark.—R. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

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Bronze Cuckoo
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Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE:—Owing to having the indices to prepare for the current vol. the Editor will have his time fully occupied therewith, and he will be grateful for all the help as to copy and illustrations members can give him, so that he may not be called upon to bear the additional burden of having to fill gaps in the November and December issues of the Journal. For copy to be of real help in the way of saving his time, so that he may be able to concentrate on the indices, it should be sent in at once. All who can help in this direction are urged to do so. Articles, upon any topic of aviculture, both as to British and foreign species of birds, are what are required to maintain general interest. The Editor is of the opinion that reprints from other Journals should be as few as possible, and then be merely extracts to inform us as to the habits of birds in their native haunts, not otherwise easily obtainable. Members resident abroad can greatly help by sending us field notes of the birds of their locality, so that as far as possible the contents of our Journal may consist of first hand information.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds, for obvious reasons, need all the help members can give them—the committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Bufton, Lt. R. P.	1	0	0
Burgess, Mrs. (B.N. postage)		1	6
Carr-Walker, H.,		10	0
Case, Mrs. (B.N. postage)		1	6
Chawner, Miss (B.N. postage)		1	6
Davies, Mrs. M. H.	1	1	0
Drummond, Miss M.	1	0	0
Halkes, T. J.	1	0	0
Henderson, Mrs.	1	0	0
Rogers, W. T.		10	0
Scott, Dr. and Mrs. J. Easton	1	0	0
Suggitt, R.	1	0	0
Tavistock, The Marquis of	10	0	0

Changes and Corrections of Address.

R. Scott-Miller to Clydeneuk, Uddingston.
Lt. R. P. Bufton, Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire.
Mrs. G. A. Perreau to 5, Lansdown Parade, Cheltenham.
J. W. Marsden to c/o Mrs. Raby, 90 Regent Road, Morecambe, W.E.
Mrs. Sebag Montefiore, East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
P. T. Harvey to "Farleigh," Old Leigh Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex.
Davies, Mrs. M. H., to St. Ann's, Tintern, Chepstow.
Sidgwick, Dr. J. E., to Shirley Dene, Hildenborough, Kent.

Proposed for Election as Members.

L. Hyde Clarke, Woodlands, St. Olave's, Gt. Yarmouth, *By Dr. M. Amsler.*
A. Freeman Ford, 215 South Grand Avenue, Pasadena, California, U.S.A., *By T. F. Williamson.*

Erratum.

Pink page 40 under *New Members Elected,* "W. A. Brackenbridge" should read W. A. Brackenridge.

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Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller Canaries.

* CLARE, MISS L. The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London
Budgerigars, Blue x Green.

* CHATTERTON, MRS. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N., 8
Cockateels
Budgerigars

* CALVOCORESSI, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

* MARSDEN, J., F.Z.S., Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

* SMITH, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* PITHIE, MISS D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth.
Zebra Finches.

* MONTEFIORE, MRS. H. SEBAG, West Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
Green Budgerigars.
Cockateels.

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MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Young Zebra Finches, outdoor aviary bred, 20s. per pair.—Mrs. Tracey, Halsham, Teignmouth.

FOR SALE: Pair Black East Indian Ducks with two young, 30s., or would exchange for a pair of Japanese Teal.—Mrs. Williams, 49 Oakhampton Road, Exeter.

FOR SALE: Tui and All Green Parrakeet, very devoted, think male and female, £3 the two; Pope Cardinals, hen sat and laid, £2 5s.; hen Rosella Parrakeet, laid and sat, £2 10s.; Green Budgerigars, 25s. pair, Yellows 30s. pair; hen Indian Parrakeet £2 10s.; young cock Roller Canary, 45s.; a few Roller hens, also Cinnamon and Cin. marked cocks and hens.—Mrs. Burgess, 52 Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.

WANTED: Male Cockateel, two year old bird preferred, would exchange Green or Yellow Budgerigars. FOR SALE: Budgerigars, one pair, adult Yellows, 30s.; one pair adult Greens, 20s.; young Greens, 12s. 6d. pair; young Yellows 20s. pair. All large healthy birds bred in outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Mackness, 29 Cyprus Road, Finchley, London, N., 3.

FOR SALE: Hen Cherry Finch 20s.; believed hen Marsh Tit 10s.—Capt. Reeve:, Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Pairs Red-faced Lovebirds, and Rosella Parrakeets; cock Cockateel; several pairs Zebra Finches and Avadavats, hen Cordon Bleu, etc., all acclimatised and in out-door aviary.—Miss K. A. Oakshott, Barham House, East Hoathly, Sussex.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

List of Coloured Plates which have appeared in BIRD NOTES, the Journal of the Club.

Gold and Green Tanager
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Three-coloured Tanager
* Cornish Chough
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
Black-backed Tanager
* Golden-crowned Conure
Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
Haw-headed Parrot
Group of Spermophila
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugarbird
Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
* Mexican or Green Jay
Black-cheeked Tanager
Violet or Dusky Parrot
Painted Finch
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogan
Rainbow Bunting
Black-winged Lory
Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
A Beautiful Aviary
* Stellas' Lories
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Uvæan Parrakeet
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Flycatcher
* Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
Crimson-ringed Whydah
Indian White-eyes
Fairy Blue-Bird
Blue-rumped Parrot
Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure
Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
Blue and Black, and Vieillot's Tanagers
Jerdon's Green Bulbul
Malabar, and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls
Red-billed Blue-Pie
Red-tailed Muila
Brown-backed Robin
Sunbirds

Price 1/6 each, except those marked * which are 1/- each. Postage 1½d. extra.

Any of the above, mostly hand-coloured Plates, can be obtained from

J. H. HENSTOCK, AVIAN PRESS, ASHBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Important: Almost simultaneously with this issue, members will receive a circular, appealing to them to make one big effort to wipe out the entire deficit, and put the Club on a sound financial basis. Once this is accomplished, our strength of membership assures us of a very prosperous and useful future.

With the gladsome news of complete victory ushering in a new era in the world's history, let us, as a club, make ready for the coming year and any changes it may bring in its train, by clearing off the deficit and every other hindrance to progress

We ask that each member will give the circular their careful consideration and be as generous as they can.

Unpaid Subscription: There are some subscriptions still outstanding, and such members have been notified of same; will they kindly remit at once, so that our Hon. Treasurer may have the wherewithal to meet our liabilities?

Our Membership: During the war, which has happily now reached a victorious conclusion, we have lost many members who have fallen in battle on the various fighting fronts, and we urge all to make the Club, its Journal, and objects known to all bird-keepers and those interested in bird-life. The closing down of the year is a specially good time for recruiting new members, and we trust all will make an effort to introduce at least one new member.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treas.*,
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds, for obvious reasons, need all the help members can give them—the committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Bamford, W.	3	0	0
Beaty, S.	2	2	0
Bourke, The Hon. Mrs. G.	2	0	0
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Hincks, Miss	2	0	0
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Pope, Mrs.	1	1	0
Pollack,		5	0
Southcombe, L.	2	0	0
Wait, Miss St. A.	1	0	0

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Marsden, J. W., to The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Morecambe.

Chas. Cleeberg, jur., to Bellevue House, Dumfries.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Carr, Percy, Ormond Lodge, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon. *By the Hon. Editor.*

New Members Elected.

L. Hyde Clarke, Woodlands, St. Olave's, Gt. Yarmouth.
A. Freeman Ford, 215, South Grand Avenue, Pasadena, California, U.S.A.

Obituary.

W. H. Pickles, Stoneyhurst, Morecambe—died June 27th, 1918.

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

* Indicates ability to supply as soon as young are old enough to be moved.

* THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.,
Stanley Parrakeets.

* Baily, W., Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.
Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures
Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves

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Budgerigars
Peach-faced Lovebirds
Pope Cardinals
Long-tailed Grassfinches
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Green Cardinals
Doves, Violet
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FOR SALE: Cock Blossom-head Parrakeet, young bird just in full colour; Scaly-breasted Lorrikeet, believed hen.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Marsh Tit, believed hen, 10s.—Capt. J. S. Reeve, Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Zebra Finches, outside aviary bred, what offers.—Le Pelley, Midland Bank, Guernsey.

FOR SALE: Bird Notes, 1913 to 1918 inclusive, cash offers invited; also five hen Stanley Parrakeet.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE: 31 vols. *Avicultural Magazine*, 1894-1918 inclusive, 26 bound in art cloth with gold block official binding. 17 vols. BIRD NOTES, 1903-18 inclusive, 15 vols. bound in art linen official binding. *Foreign Finches in Captivity*, by A. G. Butler, illustrated by Frowhawk, 60 plates, coloured by hand, handsomely bound. All clean and perfect, particulars.—J. Cronkshaw, 7 Harcourt Road, Accrington.

WANTED: Male Cockateel, two years old preferred, would exchange Green or Yellow Budgerigars. FOR SALE: Budgerigars, 1 pair adult Yellows, 30s.; 1 pair adult Greens, 20s.; young Greens, 12s. 6d. pair; young Yellows, 20s. pair. All large healthy birds, bred in outdoor aviary. —Mrs. Mackness, 29 Cyprus Road, Finchley, London, N. 3.

WANTED: Cock King Parrakeet; hen Many-colour, and any other rare Parrakeets. FOR SALE: 2 cock adult Blue × Green Budgerigars. WANTED: Blue Budgerigars.—Miss Clare, The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

FOR SALE: Pair Diamond Doves, 40s.; cocks Abyssinian Weaver, and Red Sparrow; hens Black Seedfinch, and Dwarf Weaver, all 20s. each.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Some pure bred Flemish, and Belgian Rabbits, adult stock does and their youngsters, all in perfect condition, list sent. Also a pair of exquisite Toy Dogs, Prince Charles Spaniels.—Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Deficit Appeal: We regret that we have up to the present been unable to get the whole of the circulars out, but we trust that members will respond as soon as possible when they receive them.

The Roll: Owing to the pressure of "the times," we fear it will not be possible to publish our roll in the January issue of Bird Notes, but we hope to have it thoroughly revised and complete for the February issue.

New Members: We shall need quite an influx of these and urge all members to do their utmost to every bird-keeper and bird-lover. Either the Hon. Editor or Secretary will be pleased to send specimen issues to any addresses sent to them; or on request will send specimen copies to any member who can make profitable use of them. The trite and well worn saying "if each member would introduce one new member during the year" is very much to the point, and if carried into effect would more than double our membership, for some members could easily introduce several, and we press this point upon your attention.

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WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

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	£	s.	d.
Barnard, Lt. T. T.	3	10	0
Chatterton, Mrs.	0	5	0
Chawner, Miss E. C.	1	0	0
Foster, T.	0	10	0
Hartley, Mrs. E. A.	0	10	0
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FOR SALE: Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, believed hen. Also pedigree Flemish Rabbits, 11 weeks old.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

R. E. Simpson to c/o Mrs. Allcorn, 2 Railway Cottages, Bottesford, Notts.
A. J. Stephens, to 86 Balfour Road, Ilford, S.E.
H. C. Oberholsa, 2805, 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
E. Wedge to Thorpedale Cottage, Chorley Wood, Herts.

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- Violet or Dusky Parrot
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- Brown-backed Robin
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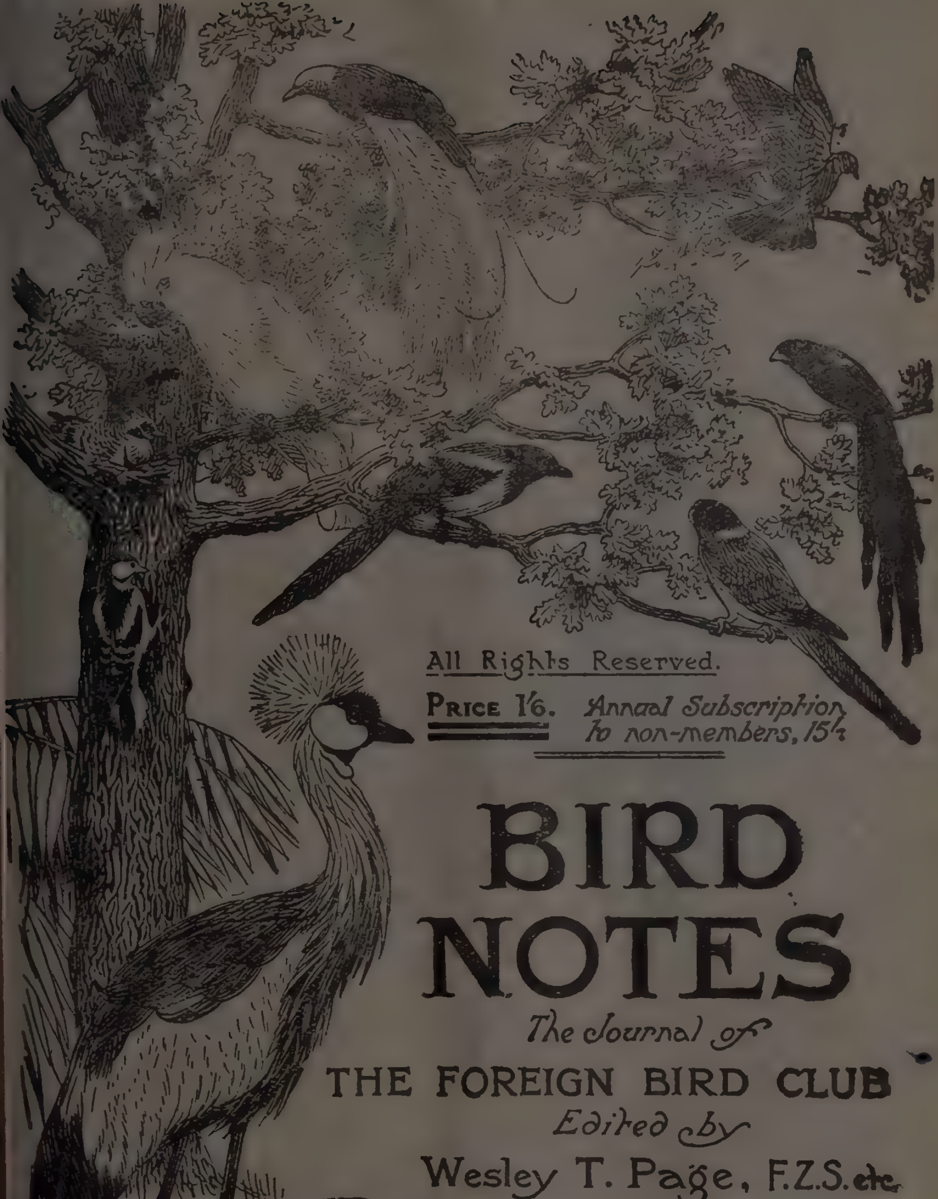

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Edited by

Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. etc.

Published about the 15th of each month

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Grass Parrakeets in Captivity ...By the Marquis of Tavistock

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A Reminiscence .... By Miss A. Bruce.

Editorial—1918.

Correspondence—*A Long-lived Nightingale; Aviculture in the U.S.A.*

Roll of Members.

POST MORTEM REPORTS.

Suspended for the present. Will be resumed as soon as a successor can be found to Mr. Gray.

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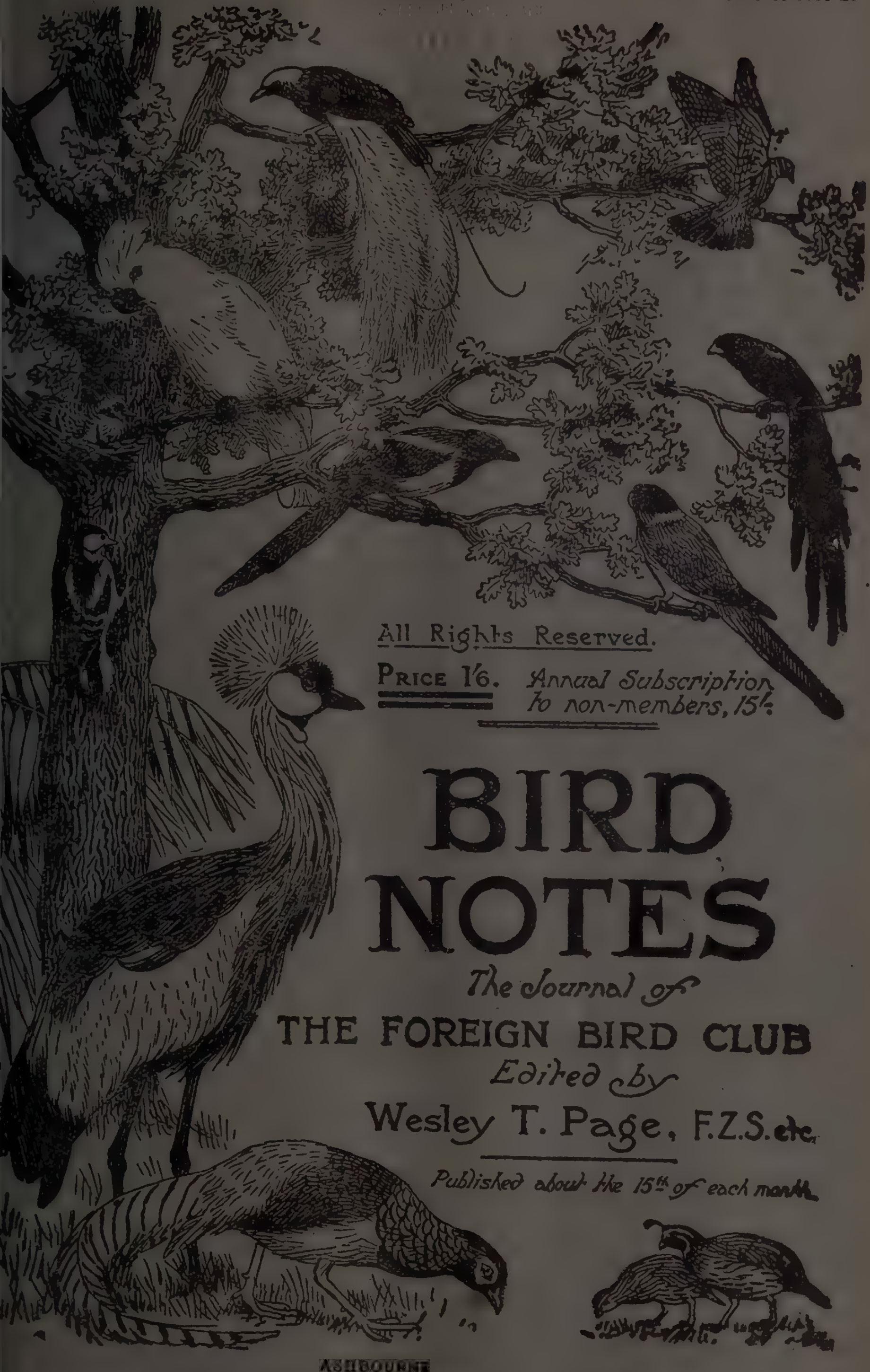

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Notes of Bird Life in Mesopotamia ...BY LIEUT. W. R. BATTY.

CORRESPONDENCE.—*Members' Sales and Exchanges and the Perpetuation of Species in our Aviaries.*

The Birds of British Guiana ...BY CHAS. DAWSON, S.J., M.A., (OXON).

BLUE BUDGERIGARS—*From the "Yorkshire Evening Post."*

INSET.

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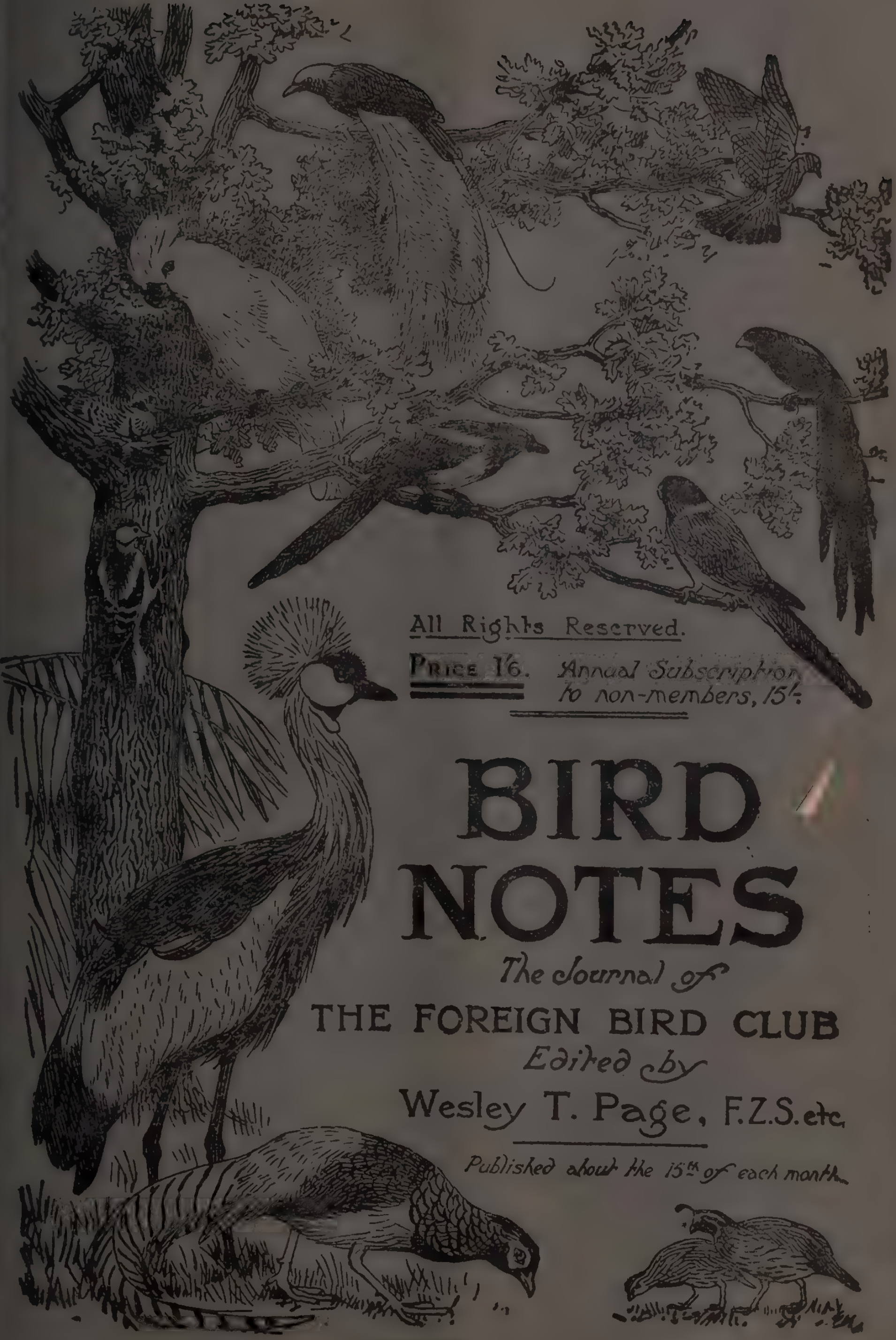

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MEMORANDA FOR MEMBERS.

Annual Subscriptions to Members 10s., due on the 1st January in each year.

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All MSS. for publication in **Bird Notes,** and **Books** for Review, Proposals for New Members, Advertisements, for "The Bird Market," and claims for Breeding Medals, should be sent to the Hon. Editor, W. T. Page, F.Z.S., etc., "Langstone," Lingfield, Surrey.

All enquiries as to the treatment of Birds should be sent to the following gentlemen: Parrots and Parrakeets, H. T. Camps, F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Isle of Ely; Insectivorous, Frugivorous, and Small Seed-eating Birds, W. T. Page, F.Z.S., "Langstone," Lingfield, Surrey.

All Letters referring to the above, identification of birds, etc., must contain a penny stamp for reply.

All applications for Show Medals and enquiries re Shows should be sent to Mr. S. M. TOWNSEND, 3, Swift Street, Fulham, London, S.W

All other Correspondence, Changes of Address, etc., should be sent to the Hon. Business Secretary, SIDNEY WILLIAMS, F.Z.S., Oakleigh, 110 Riverway, Palmers Green, London, N.13.

This Magazine is printed and published by J. H. HENSTOCK, "Avian Press," Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, to whom all orders for back numbers and bound volumes (with remittance) should be sent.

All correspondence, MSS., etc., (also remittances) relating to TRADE ADVERTISEMENTS should be sent to the publisher, J. H HENSTOCK, who will quote rates and transact all business connected therewith. Also all complaints re non-delivery of the Magazine.

An Illustration Fund is kept open for the purpose of increasing the number of plates, other than the regular income of Club the provides for. The smallest donation will be thankfully received for this object by the Hon. Treasurer.

Any member not receiving **Bird Notes** by the 20th of each month should **at once** write the Publisher, complaining of the omission.

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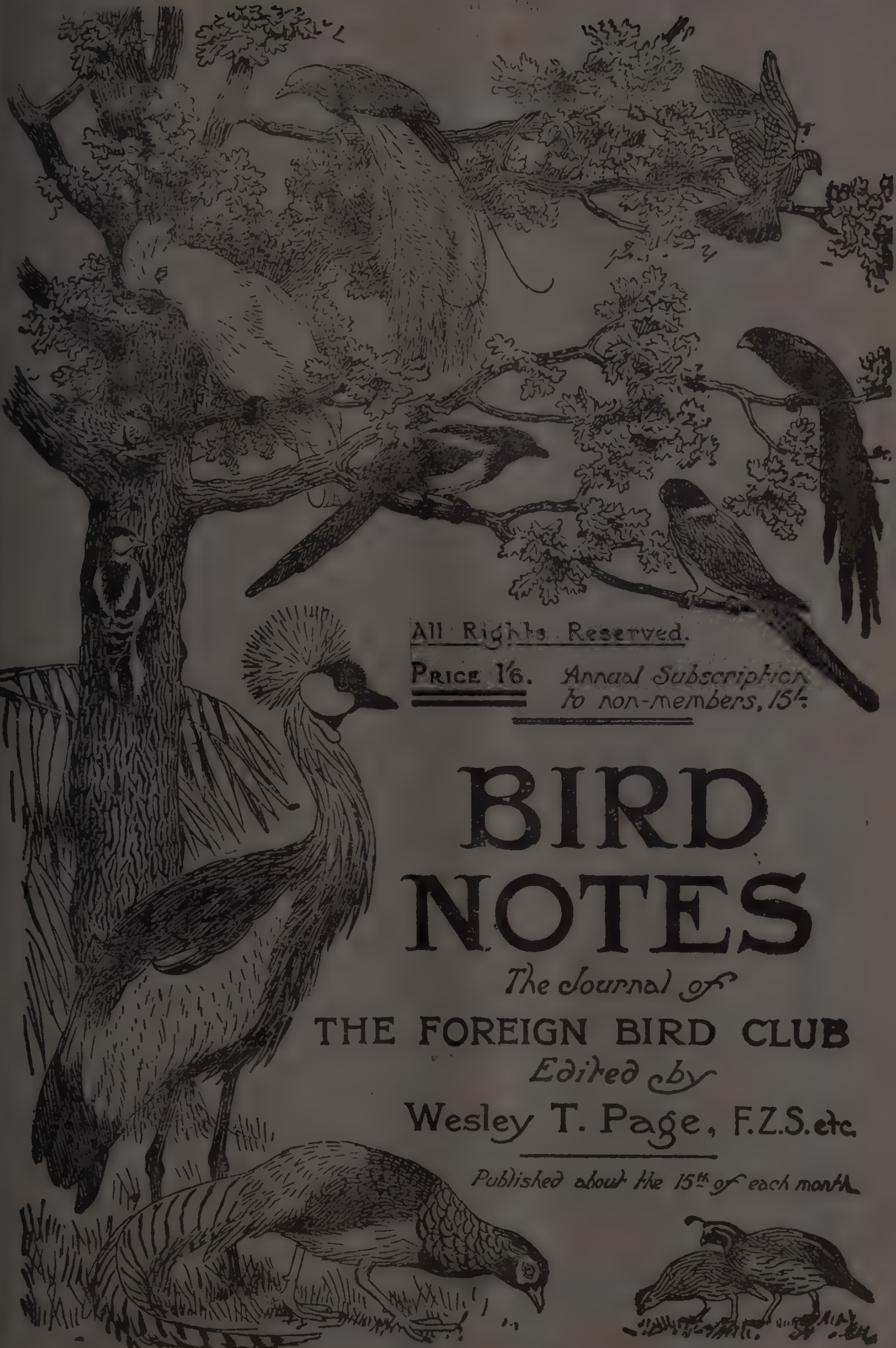

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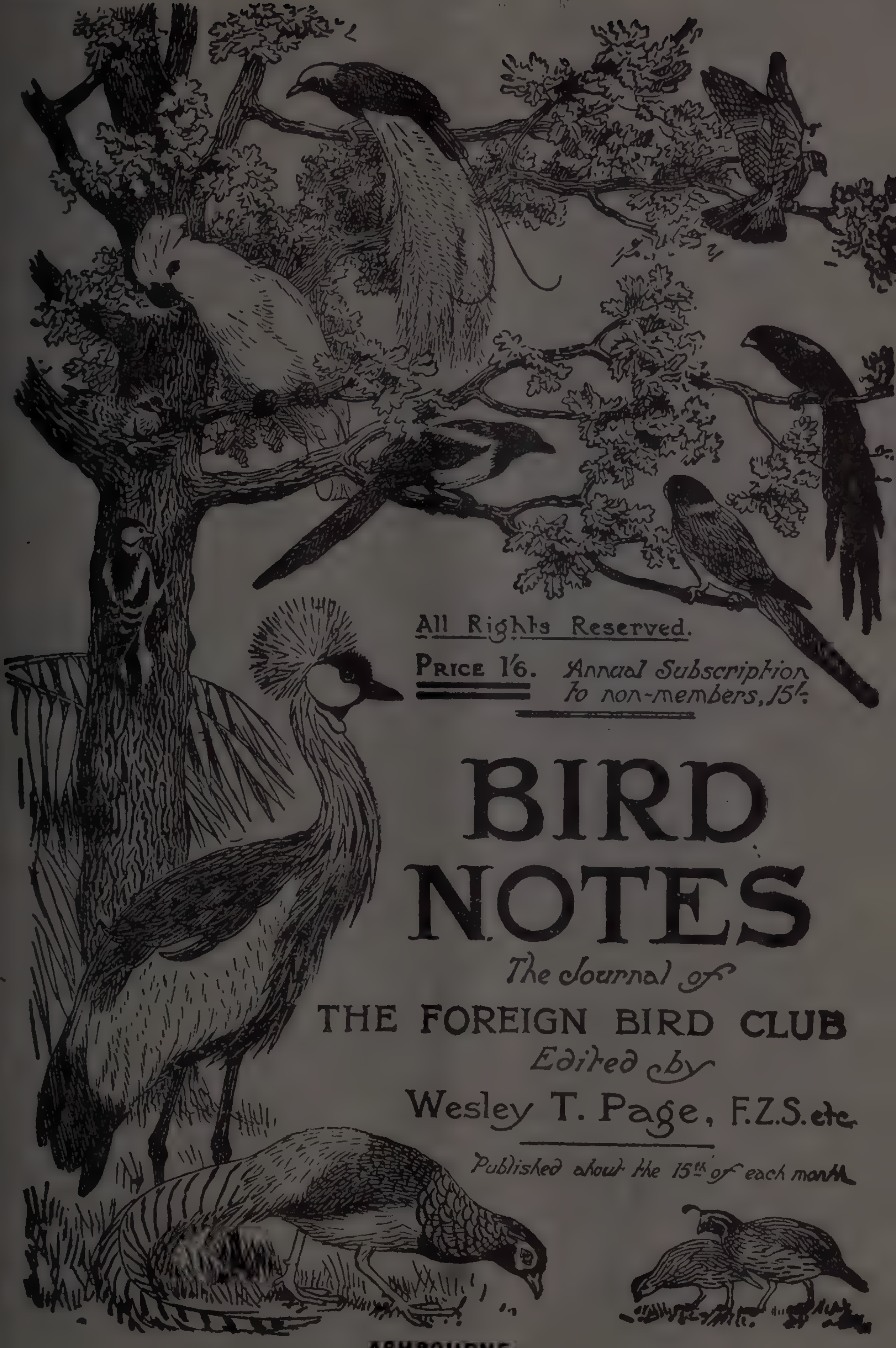

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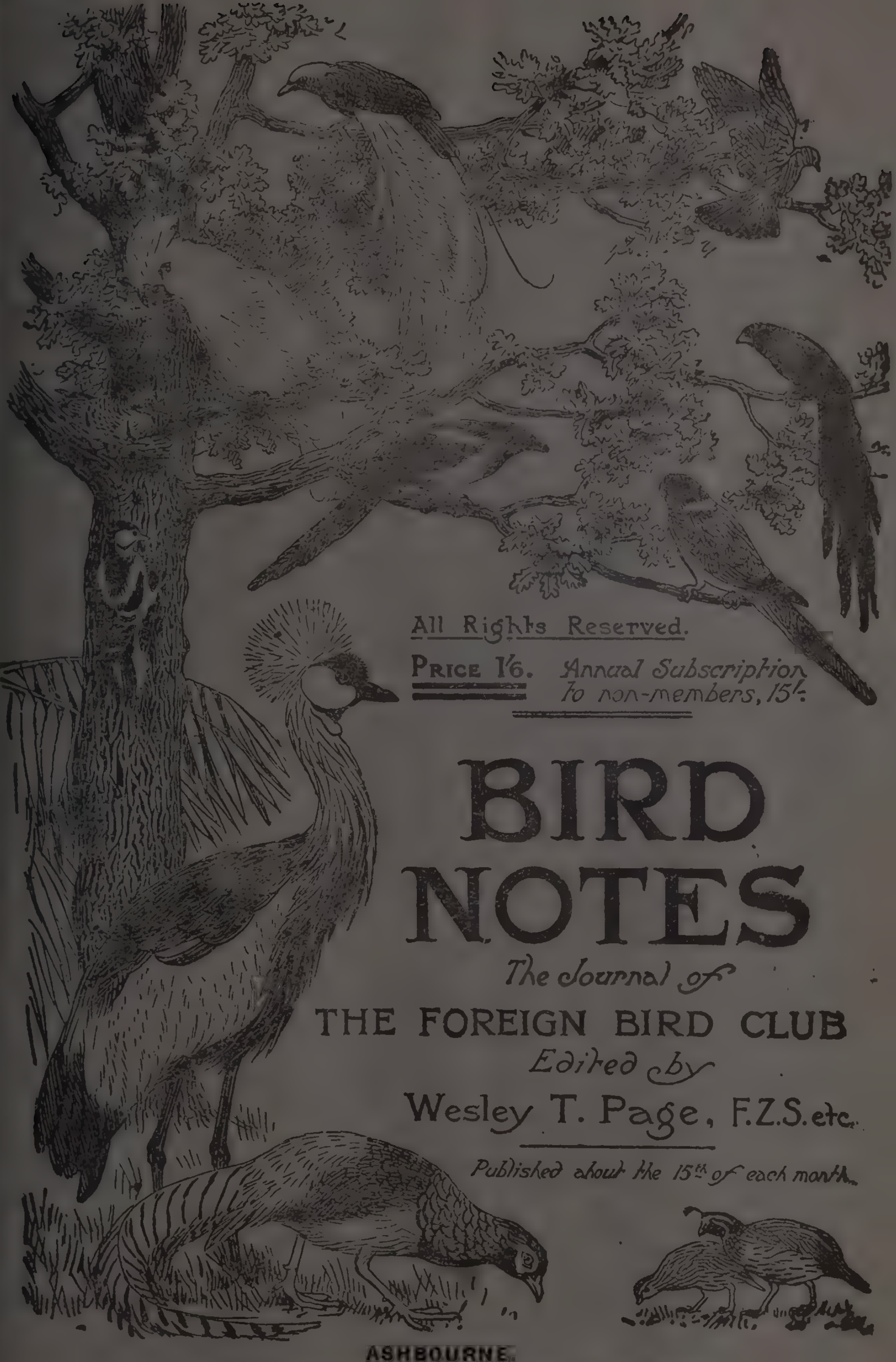

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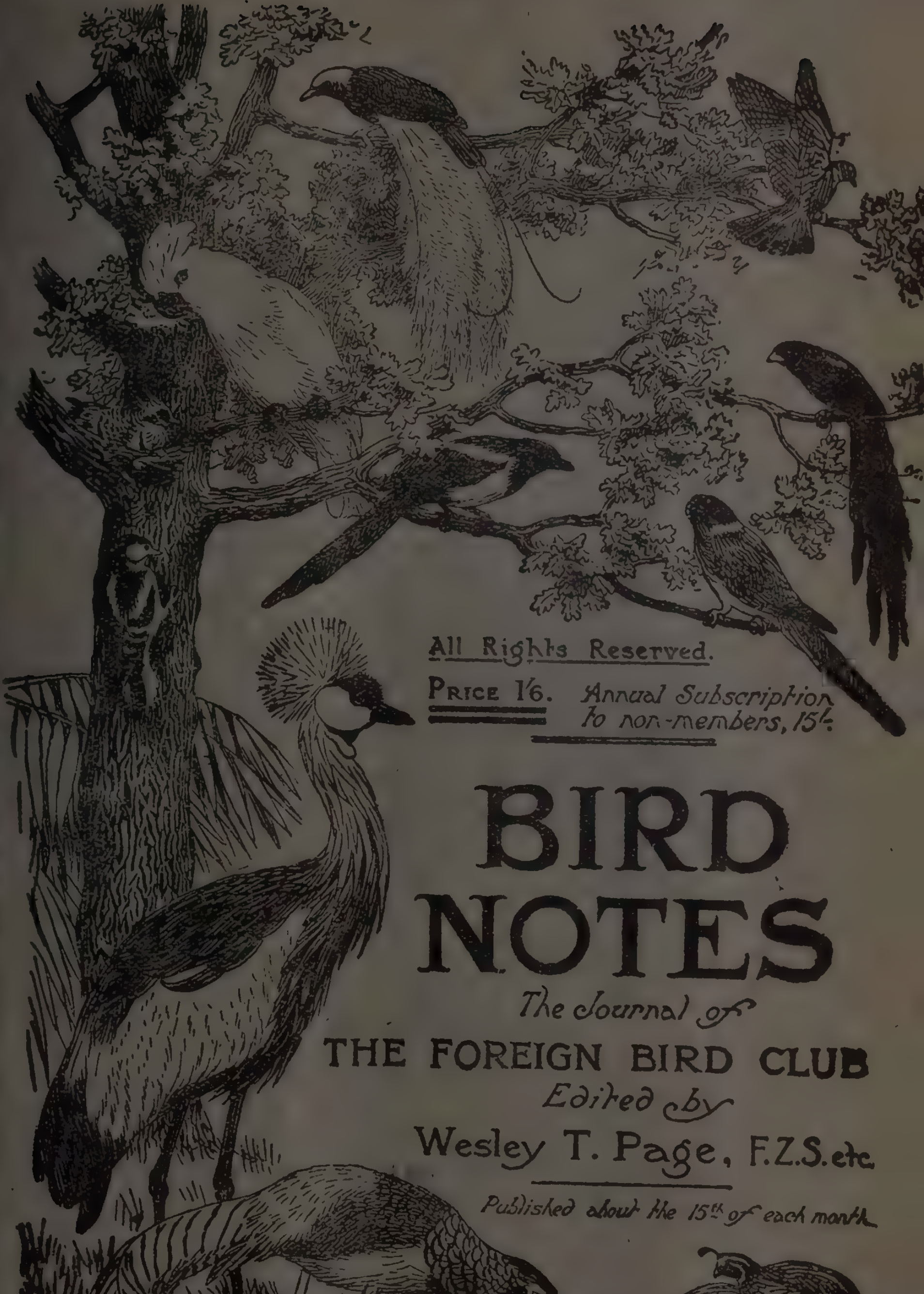

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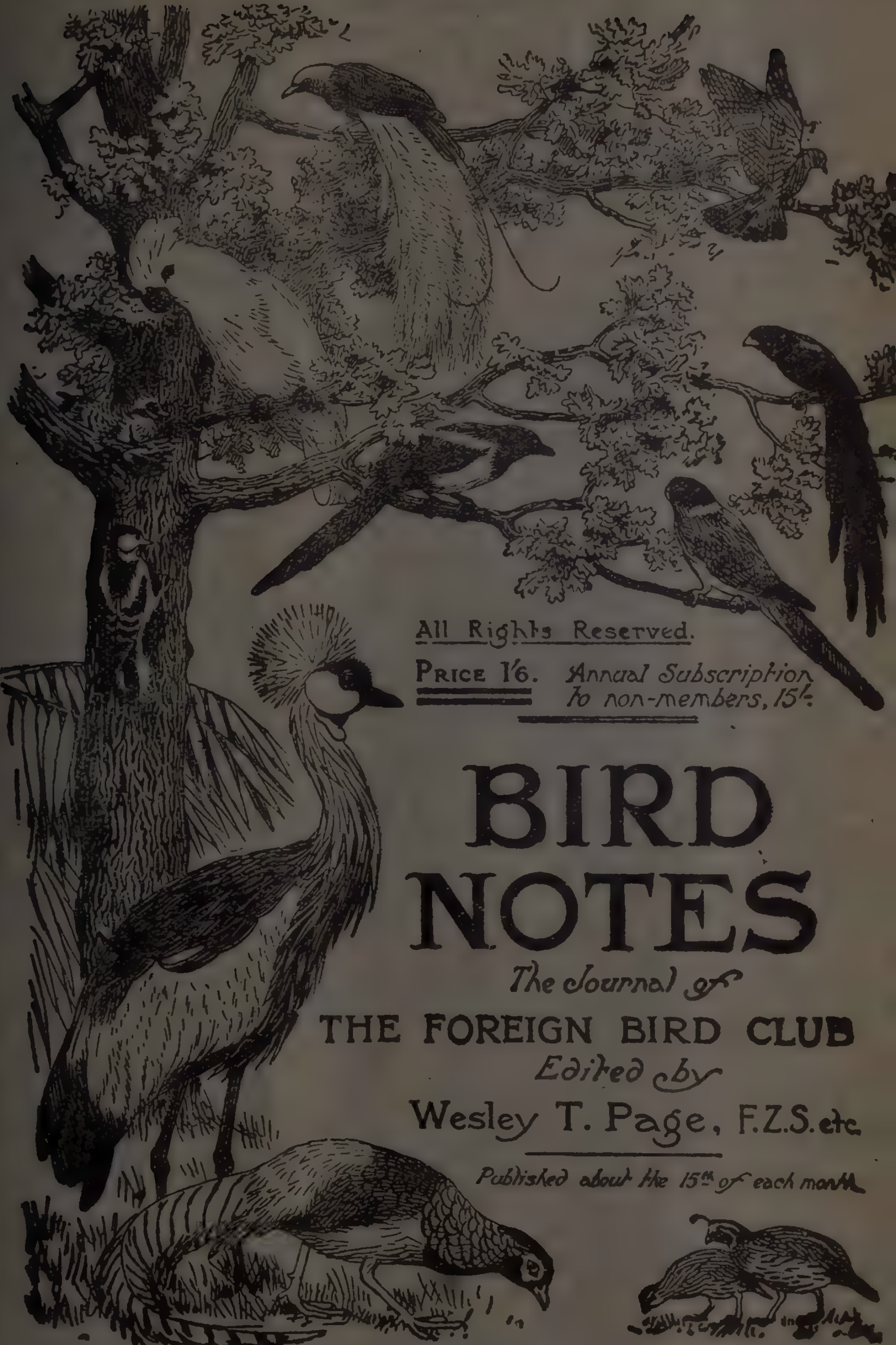

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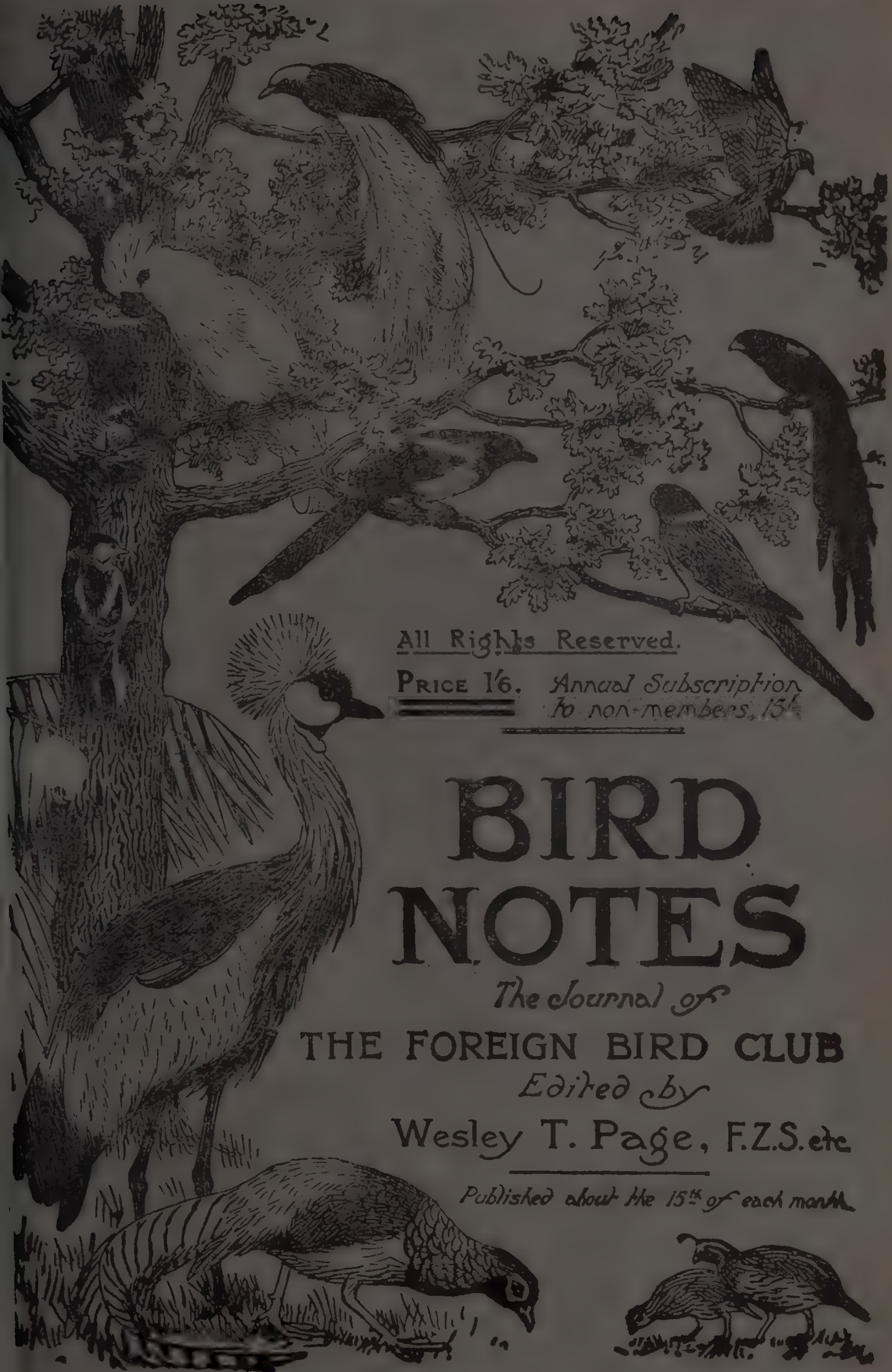

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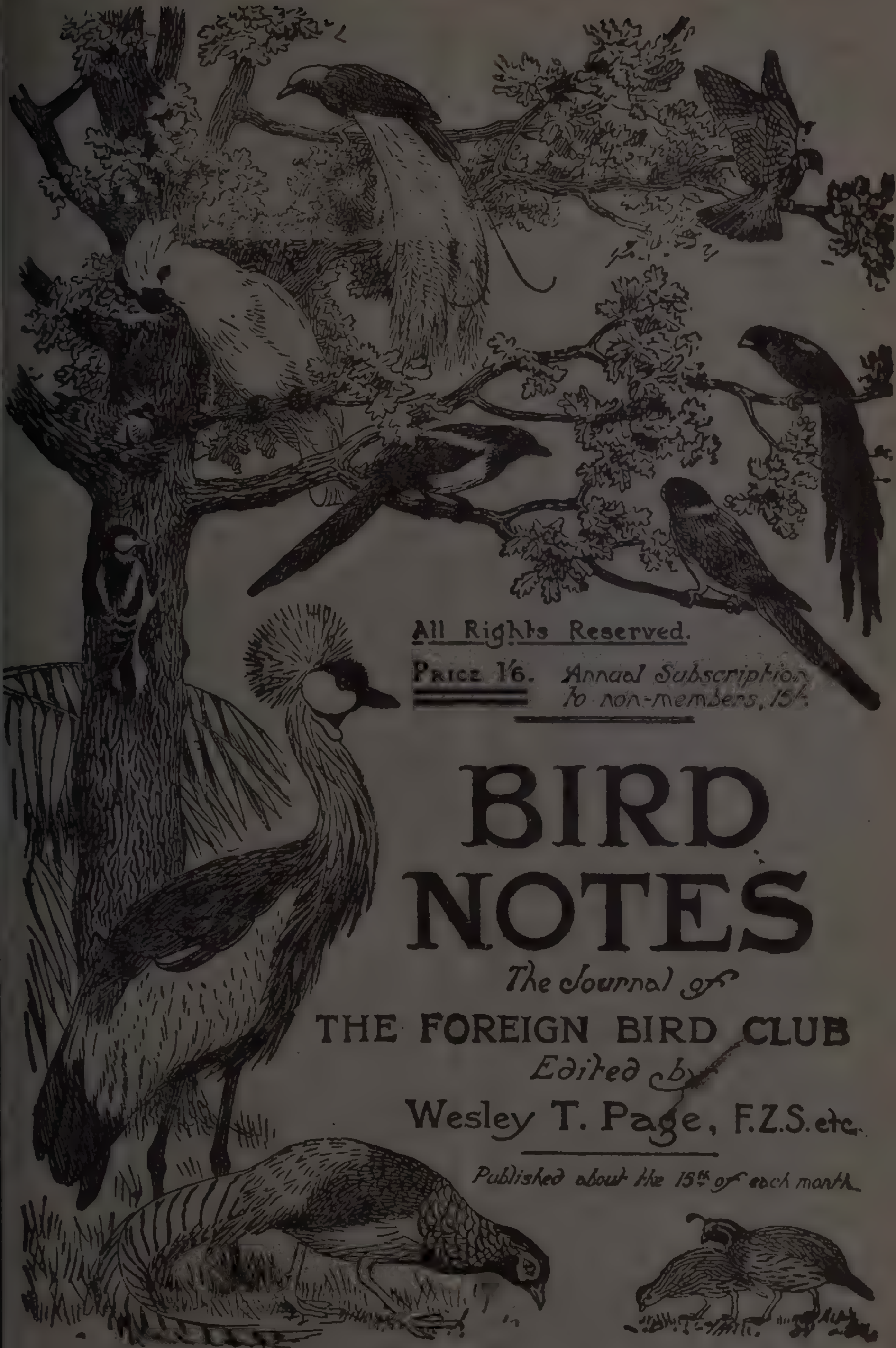

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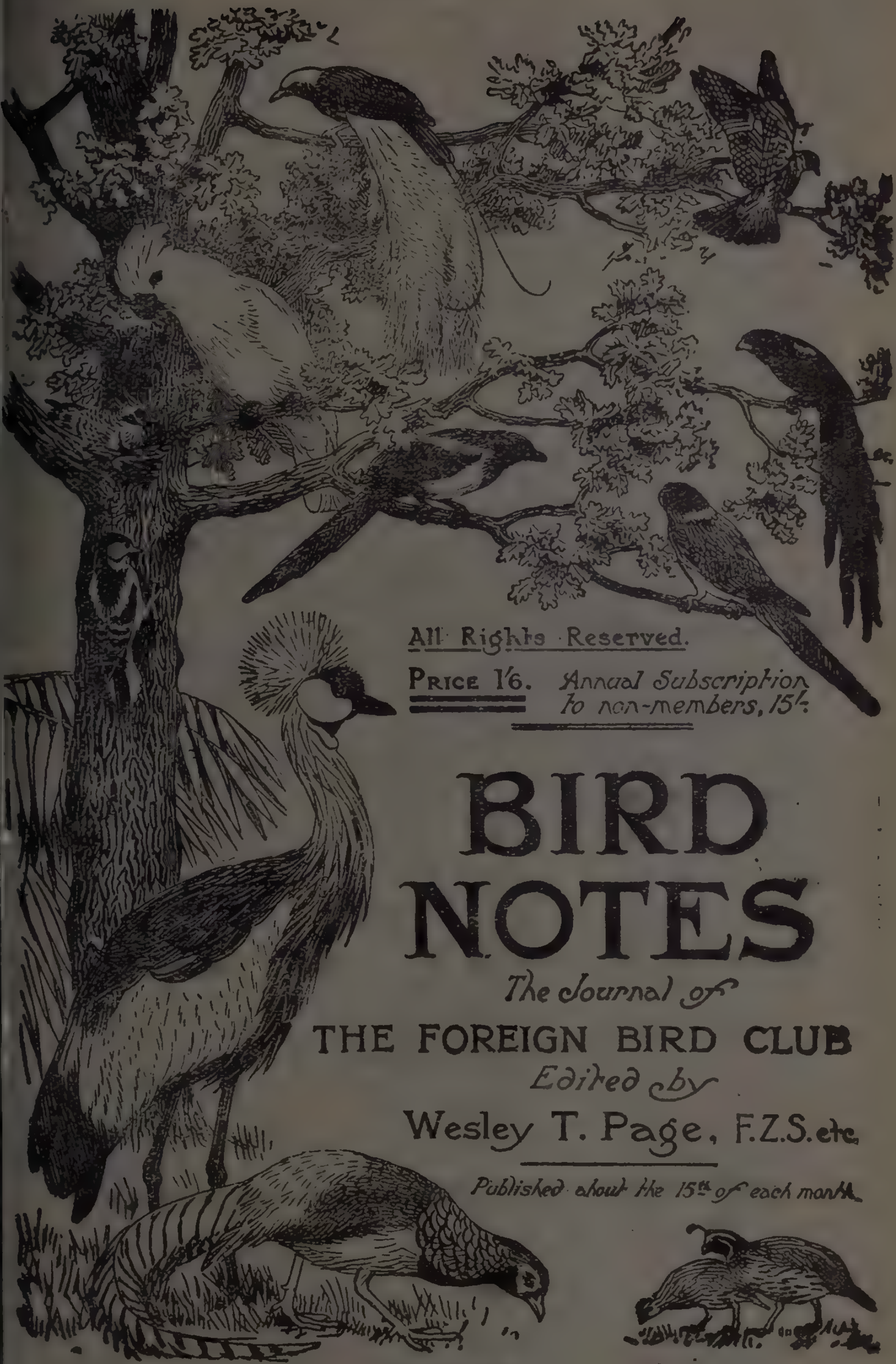

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